The TV-TS

Tapestry

the journal for persons interested in crossdressing & transexualism

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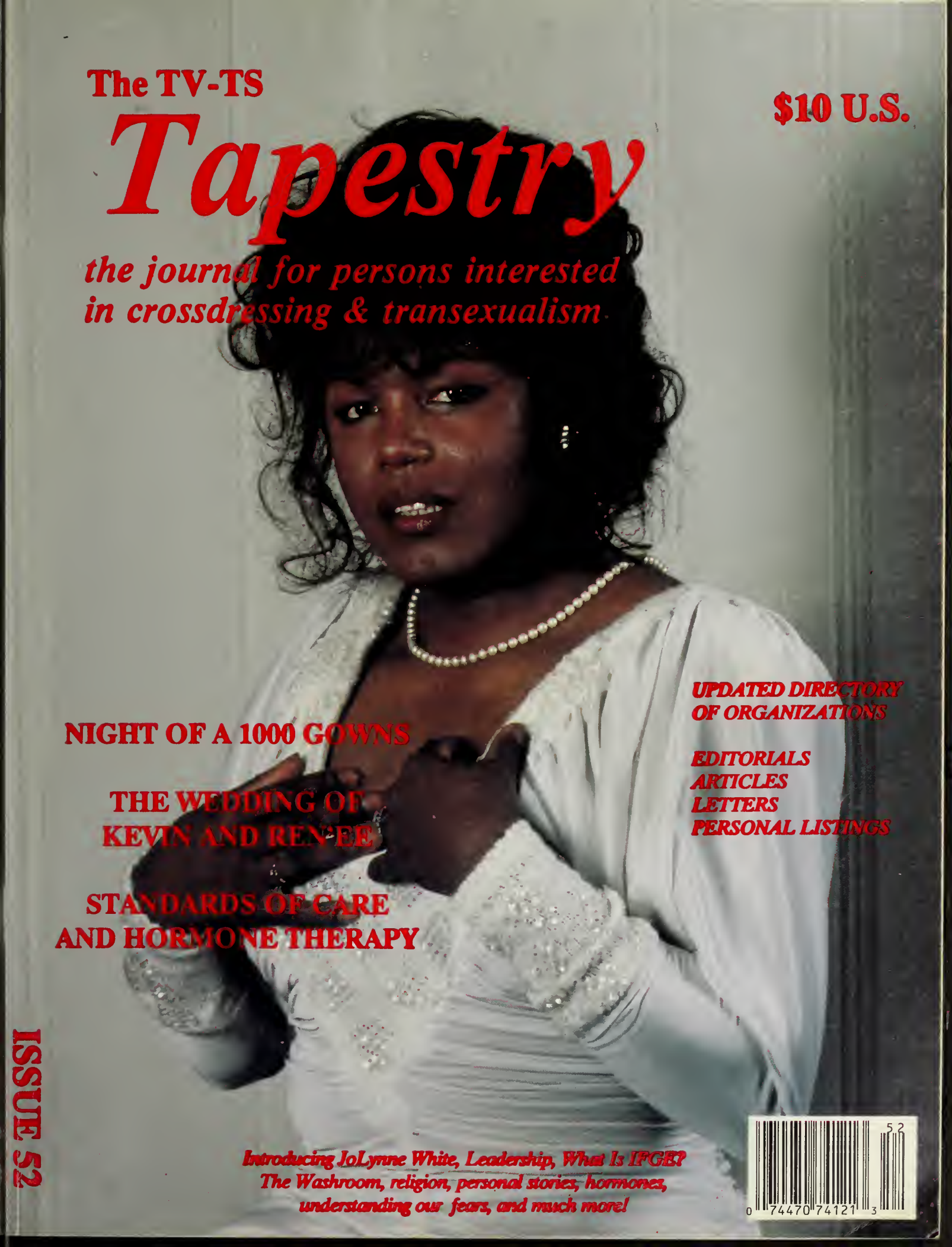

NIGHT OF A 1000 GOWNS

THE WEDDING OF KEVIN AND RENEE

STANDARDS OF CARE AND HORMONE THERAPY

UPDATED DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS

EDITORIALS
ARTICLES
LETTERS
PERSONAL LISTINGS

Introducing JoLynne White, Leadership, What Is IFGE? The Washroom, religion, personal stories, hormones, understanding our fears, and much more!

ISSUE 52

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIALS: HEALING & THE WEDDING OF RENEE & KEVIN 5
By: Merissa Sherrill Lynn

EDITORIAL By: Wendi Danielle Pierce 8

TAPESTRY MAILBAG 13

SPECIAL FEATURES:

NIGHT OF A 1000 GOWNS
FEATURE STORY by Kay Gould 19
A MEMORY TO CHERISH AND TO HOLD by Sheila Kirk 23

THE WEDDING OF KEVIN AND REN'EE by Ren'ee Chevalier 30

ARTICLES:

INTRODUCING JOLYNNE WHITE by JoLynne White 10
MIRROR MIRROR, ON THE WALL.. by Kyelle Blake, with Cheryl B. 36
THE MONGOLIAN MOOSE WRESTLER (And Other Things) I AM NOT 39
by Catherine Lynn Andrews
SY ROGERS AND THE 700 CLUB, A RESPONSE by Sr Mary Elizabeth n/SSE 46
THE WASHROOM PROBLEM by Julia Matheson 47
LEADERSHIP, CHRYSLER, AND LEE IACOCCA by Gloria Wright 49
WHAT IS IFGE? by Janice Van Cleve 51
COMING INTO THE WORLD by Vivian Vixen 53
LINDA/LARRY--OUR STORY by Linda Walker 54
RELIGION--A MATTER OF CHOICE by Nikki Bee 57
STANDARDS OF CARE AND HORMONE THERAPY FOR TRANSSEXUALS 60
by Tomye Kelley, M.A.
COMMENTARY ON HORMONES by Charlene Mann 63
PERSONAL STORY by Karen K. 64
IT'S AWE-FULL BEING YOURSELF! by JoAnne S. 66
OUR FEARS AND TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THEM by Kim 67
CHERCHEZ LA FEMME, FIND THE WOMAN -- by Anon 68
NOT QUITTING THE GAME - JUST SWITCHING SIDES by Rupert Raj 77
MINORITY OR MAJORITY by Paula Louise Riordan 79
A SECOND OPINION by Louisa L. Raeder 80
SOMETHING BAD THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN by Stephanie Davis 81

POSITIVE ACTION:

RESPONSE TO BILL HOSOKAWA by Tomye Kelley, M.A. 41
NEW YORK POST FOLLOW-UP by Mariette Pathy Allen 44

PSYCHOLOGY:

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK #2, #6, #19, #21 by Roger E. Peo, PhD 74

CONTENTS CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

POETRY:

ODE TO STANLEY by Sherry 43

BULLETINS, NOTICES, NEWS: 83

DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES: 87

PERSONAL LISTINGS: 103

SUBSCRIPTION FORM: 143

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

A & A Electrolysis Associates 12
Androgyny Unlimited 76
Bahamas Cruise 153
Michael Becker 45
Breast Forms 56
Chicago Gender Society 149
David Collins, Insurance 147
"Coming Together" Convention '89 154
Crossdresser's Delight 147
Cross-Port 142
Crowning Glory Wigs 151
Dallas-Ft. Worth New Missies 149
Delia Wigs 35
Eidos Magazine 119
En Femme Magazine 147
Fantasy Fashions 151
Fem Fashions 148
Feminine Illusions 18
Florence's Fashions 146
Gender Worker 148
Susan Gonsalves, RE 146
Glen W. Humphrey 146
J2CP 146
JoAnne Goes To College 50
Lee's Mardi Grass Boutique 149
Lydia's TV Fashions 147
Mirage Breast Forms 151
Patricia Mathews 148
New Day Electrolysis Center 63
Northwest Gender Alliance 148
Outreach Institute 145
People Systems Potential 149
Perfumer's Collection 35
Provincetown Business Guild 146
Queen Mary 59
Rose and Crown 148
St Louis Gateway Femmes 148
Salmacis 148
Sexology Associates 9
Stockings 138
TV/TS Talk Magazine 40
Texas 'T' Party 132
Texas 'T' Party 145
Theseus Counseling 68
Tiffany WSG Outing 81
Transformation 135
Transsexual Voice 73
Turnabout 116
Twelve Center St Guest House 145
Venus Line 152
Vernon's Silk & Lace 151
Versatile Fashion Boutique 86
Versatile Fashion Boutique 145
J.L. White 11
1-550-TVTS 150

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EDITORIALS

By: Merissa Sherrill Lynn

...HEALING
...THE WEDDING OF RENEE AND KEVIN

HEALING

During the 1988 'Coming Together' Convention in Chicago I had the pleasure of meeting Jo Lynne White, an image consultant from New York City. She impressed me. (She volunteered to help without being asked, and I'm always impressed when people volunteer to help without being asked.) While she slaved away in our office, we talked of 'meaning', the nature of God and the Universe, and other light-hearted topics. Whenever I can sit with someone and talk about epistemological, metaphysical, and theological issues without blowing somebody's head off, I'm a very happy person. Yes indeed, I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Jo Lynne.

After Chicago, Jo Lynne and I became friends. We have had many wonderful conversations, and I found her to be a very intuitive and caring human being, and, like most of us, a person with a history of pain. Most of us have learned to deal with our pain through any number of methods. One of mine was getting lost in the wilderness. One of Jo Lynne's was her Healing Circle.

Recently I had the chance to go to New York City for a visit, and Jo Lynne invited me to attend her Healing Circle. The temperature that night was around 9000 degrees and the humidity was hovering near 500%, but I decided to go anyway. The meeting was held in a church gymnasium -- with no furniture. 200 people sat on the floor, holding hands, singing gentle harmonies, and being kind to one another. (The group sang one of the most beautiful renditions of 'Happy birthday I have ever heard. They sang to Hector, a friend who had just died of AIDS. The music was soft and sweet and lovely.) It really was a beautiful ceremony, but all I could think about was being hot, wearing shorts, and sticking to the floor. Then Nelson, one of the group leaders, began leading an exercise called 'Ecstacy'. It turned out to be an experience I will never forget.

After the meeting I wrote a letter to thank the Circle for welcoming me, and to share with them some of my thoughts. The letter subsequently showed up in the Circle's newsletter. I would like to share that letter with you.

Tuesday night was the first Healing Circle I have ever attended. I regret I did not speak, for I do have something I want to share.

My name is Wade, but most people know me as Merissa Sherrill Lynn. I am the founder and director of the International Foundation for Gender Education, as well as publisher of the TV-TS Tapestry Journal. These programs were based on the precepts of **"LOVE"** and **"CARING"** -- very much like your Circle.

To build these organizations was very difficult. In order for me to love and care about others and for me to give of myself to others, I first had to love and care about myself.

Tuesday night's theme was 'Ecstacy'. There was an exercise to recreate moments of ecstacy with our parents. It was an uncomfortable exercise for me because I was born into an indifferent family, and my parents died in indifference. I have never had a moment of ecstacy with either of my parents. I learned at a very early age that "**indifference**", not "**hate**" is the opposite of "**love**". In spite of this indifference, I was born with a loving soul and a need to be loved.

(Merissa & Jolynne - Tiffany's P-town Outing '88)
(Photo: Renee Chevalier)

When the exercise of recreating moments of ecstacy with my mother happened, it reminded me that I was my "mother" -- and my "child".

Over a period of many years the "mother" within

me learned how to hug and sooth the "child" within me when the child was in need. Eventually I not only learned how to love myself, I learned how to give and receive love. The exercise put me back in touch with my "mother" and my "child", and what started as something very uncomfortable, became something very beautiful.

I found the love within me years ago, and built my organization on the basis of that love. I felt that love again on Tuesday night. I pray I can return to your Circle again -- and again.

You are a wonderful group of people. God bless you all.

Those of you who were at the Convention may remember I mentioned that I love myself in the way I would want each of you to love yourselves. I love all of you in the way I would want you to love each other and those whose lives you touch. I am your "mother", and you are mine. We care for and sooth each other. That's healing.

(** A side note about this "mother" business. Bette Lee Johnson calls me her daughter, and I call her my mother. Bette calls Yvonne her mother. Yvonne calls me her mother. That makes Yvonne my daughter and Bette's mother. If Yvonne is Bette's mother, then she is my grandmother, which makes my grandmother my daughter. Does that make me my own great granddaughter or great grandmother?) (We all call Virginia Prince our grandmother, but I don't want to get into that.)

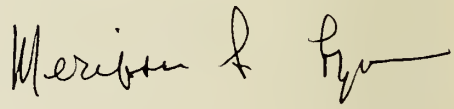
Jo Lynne, a facilitator for her Circle in New York, suggested we form a Healing Circle at next year's convention in San Francisco, to which I reply, "Great! Let's do it!" In fact, I would go further than that and suggest we look into the Healing Circle concept and work it into our over-all program of services for our Community.

What exactly is a Healing Circle? Most of us in our Community have experienced pain. We have something in our lives that needs healing. In my case, for instance, it is overcoming 20 years of anger, and the crippling fear of rejection. In your case only you can say, but I'm sure you have something that can use some healing. A Healing Circle is intended to provide a supportive environment for people working towards self-healing, or seeking a greater understanding of their lives. It is intended to provide safety and a loving atmosphere for the free exchange of ideas and emotional support to promote the concept of self-healing (ala "You Can Heal Your Life", by Dr. Louise L. Hay), and encourage networking regarding alternative and mainstream health information. It provides a forum for group members to share personal experiences on healing, growth, and transformation. It works with visualization, hands-on healing, meditation, and techniques formulated by Dr. Hay. It seeks to provide an introduction to a variety of mind/body techniques, encouraging members - in the spirit of self-healing - to choose for themselves.

I have seen a Healing Circle in action, and it worked. Healing Circles work because they use the tools of love and acceptance rather than intimidation and the fear of rejection. They do not tell people what's wrong with them, but help them to love themselves, and care about others. They don't use any dogmatic principles or spiritual fanaticism, or propose any specific method of healing. Rather, they help people learn for themselves what works best for them. They do not tell anyone what or how to believe, or who and what they are supposed to be. Rather, they accept people for who and what they are, and give love and support without prejudice.

Healing Circles work. They would work for us. I for one am looking forward to San Francisco, and especially to Jo Lynne's Healing Circle. It will be an experience you will never forget. I promise you.

My love to you all,



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RENEE & KEVIN'S WEDDING

In this issue of the Tapestry I have documented Renee and Karen Chevalier's wedding as a special feature. I chose to comment on the wedding in an editorial because it provided me with an insight and a memory that I want to share with you.

Before I get into this editorial I want to tell you something about my feelings for Renee. Renee is special to me. I have about me a group of people that I call 'family'. My family consists of a group of people that I have history with; people with whom I have shared a loving and caring and dedicated friendship. My family owns a piece of my heart, my soul, and my loyalty. Renee is a member of my family.

When Renee told me she and 'Kevin' were getting married, and asked me if I would attend, I said, "Of course!" After all, Renee was my spiritual sister, and whatever she wanted, she could have. Besides, it sounded like fun. Since 'Rich' and Karen were married in June I thought the affair would be a lark, and I treated it accordingly. It wasn't a lark. In some ways it was a very beautiful and moving ceremony, and in other ways it was very painful for me.

I first began to realize the wedding wasn't a lark shortly after Renee asked me to 'give her away'. When she asked me I was pleased. In fact, I felt very proud that she would ask me. But, I thought my giving her away wasn't in keeping with the game. A 'man' should do that, and I recommended that Brandon be her escort. I then took my seat in the last pew behind the group where I could relax and enjoy the ceremony.

The church went quiet, the sun gleamed through the windows bathing the hall in a soft white light, and the organ began to play. We turned to watch Renee come down the isle. Being the last to be seated, I was the first to see her. God, she was beautiful. The soft light gave her a brilliance that was astonishing. Suddenly I felt a deep pang of regret for allowing Brandon to take my place. I wished I hadn't.

My regret became even stronger when I saw her face as she walked past me. She looked scared to death, and I wanted to be by her side. I knew that she knew this

Brandon, Renee & Merissa
(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

wedding was no longer a game. I saw Renee walk past me... not Rich, but Renee. I knew that she knew she was about to ask Karen, not Kevin, to accept Renee into her life. 'Kevin' was just a role Karen was playing, but Renee was not playing a role. She was real, and she was about to give herself, that part of her that was so special and so private, to another. That took courage. To give the most special part of yourself to someone is the most important gift anyone can give. Can you imagine how Renee would have felt if Karen could not accept the gift? No wonder she looked frightened. When I became more aware of what was really happening, I became frightened myself, and I wasn't the one getting married. I began to pray that first Renee would be able to give the gift, and second that Karen could accept it. The palms of my hands became cold and wet, and my glasses became foggy. Then I saw 'Kevin' turn towards Renee and smile such a beautiful smile that I began to laugh and cry. Every now and then wonderful things happen in this universe, and something wonderful just happened.

The rest of the ceremony was performed without a hitch. After the wedding we ate, and laughed, and cried, and hugged, and danced the night away. Finally we bid the newlyweds good-night, wished them the very happiest and best of lives, hugged and cried some more, and then went home.

It is now several months after the wedding and I still think about it. My feelings for Karen and Renee aside, the wedding was a wonderful experience, an experience I wish all couples could share. Perhaps this would be a good place to end this editorial, with the message of how important love and acceptance is in a relationship. However, I also said the wedding provided me with a memory, one that was and continues to be painful.

As many of you know my fiancee passed away many years ago. We also were planning on being married, but death killed our dreams. Our ceremony, like Renee's, was to be a turn-about wedding. Renee's wedding rekindled a bundle of memories that had long been repressed. I remembered Pamela, a Methodist minister who was going perform the ceremony. I remembered my gown, a gorgeous creamy lemon silk pantsuit. It was a Dior design taken from Vogue that my sister, who was also a dressmaker, was sewing for me. I remember arguing over whether we wanted the ceremony in Provincetown, or at Betsy's beautiful estate in Rhode Island. But most of all .... most of all I remember what the wedding meant to us. I was a man with a very strong anima, a strong feminine quality. She was a woman with a very strong animus, a strong masculine quality. Our turn-about wedding was our way of saying, "I love you, and I accept you into my life ... I accept ALL of you!"

When my memories resurfaced during Renee's wedding I had, without realizing it, projected my own being into Renee. She was living an experience I was denied. Renee was filling a painful void in my life. So, rather than leaving you with a lofty message of love and acceptance, or praising Renee and Karen for their courage, I want to use this editorial for a personal message: "Renee and Karen, you have done something that I longed to do for most of my life. By doing what you did you have given me something more important than you can imagine. God bless you, and thank you for being in my family."

My Love To You All,

Meritt S. Fye

EDITORIAL

By: Wendi Danielle Pierce
Chairman
IFGE Board of Directors

August 1988

During the past four months I have witnessed and participated in a very exciting period of history for the gender community. The events during the past few months have shown me that we can "work together" as Merissa has so many times reiterated. We are a diverse group of individuals, all striving to achieve our own individual goals, dreams and desires, yet there is a common bond. We seem to agree to one degree or another that IFGE has a chance of succeeding. Yes, there are several areas that need work. I could fill up the remainder of this page with a list of criticisms that have been leveled at the Foundation during the past few months, but we are moving, progressing and hopefully gaining momentum as we move along.

The opening of an international headquarters has, in itself, given us a presence in the community in general. Press releases and news briefings are starting to get the word out that we exist. Some feel that this is not good. They would rather we stay in the closet but I do not agree. Tri-Ess has come out of the closet, many local groups have come out of the closet, many local groups have come out of the closet, IFGE should take the lead and should be out of the closet too. The more the general public hears of IFGE and the gender community in general, in a positive light, the more we will benefit.

I draw a parallel between us and the Gay/Lesbian movement in several respects. We are nowhere as large as they are, and we will never probably attain the strength or acceptance that their movement has. Also, we will never be as openly committed to standing up for our rights that they are, but I do see a number of parallels in our desires to achieve a certain amount of dignity and acceptance as they have. IFGE can be the catalyst or unifying force that will cause this to happen. It could parallel the alliances that the Gay/Lesbian Task Force fostered in the early 80's and we are the ones that could make that happen. We are IFGE's raw materials, we are the ones that IFGE can represent, we are the reason for IFGE.

(Wendi Danielle Pierce)

I feel there are several imperatives which need to be pursued in order to make IFGE a success. These imperatives are:

1) A Unity of Purpose
2) Communications
3) Individual Participation
4) Capitalization of Talents
5) Financial Support

Each of these imperatives is essential, each is attainable and each is now being addressed by IFGE. It is to all our advantage to take a closer look at them and how we might work toward making one or all them personal goals for us to pursue, thereby making IFGE succeed. I would like now to comment a little on each of them.

"Unity of Purpose" relates directly to the ability of all of us to agree on a common set of goals that IFGE stands for. Committees, such as the membership committee have been working toward formalizing a list of these goals. Their efforts are starting to bear fruit. Goals are not necessarily static, and as needs change, goals need to be

adjusted. So, "Unity of Purpose" and the underlying goals which it comprises need to be agreed upon and reviewed or updated as time goes on.

"Communications" is the second imperative. Probably the best way to describe this imperative is to state that the converse is isolation. Keeping the communications channels open, freely passing ideas, opinions, praise and criticisms is necessary to keep the community, and IFGE, vibrant. Silence is the enemy here. We need to let the leaders and followers know what makes sense, what is desirable and what is not. WE shouldn't just pack our bags and disappear into the woodwork when things are not agreeable.

"Individual Participation" is the third imperative. IFGE is not some distant entity with large resources and personnel. IFGE is a small dedicated core of individuals that have joined forces to try and accomplish something for the common good. Individuals work on committees, define and implement programs, assist in office tasks, in general, help where needed to get the job done. Groups are the ones that have, in the past, either associated with IFGE or not, but individuals are the key to getting the jobs done. We need those individuals.

(Wendi & Merissa discussing IFGE organizational structures)

"Financial Support" is the last imperative. All organizations need funds with which to operate. IFGE currently depends on two major sources for funding. Sales of "Tapestry' and donations. Other income sources, such as grants, other publications, revenues from events, etc. are all possibilities, but have not been exploited. Financial stability is the goal and through the interest and generosity of the community it is attainable. We need continued financial support, and although not a pleasant thing to do, we must solicit funding from time to time in order to survive. Also, available funds need to be judiciously designated. Waste of any kind would not be tolerated and we should all keep our eyes open and make cost saving suggestions where appropriate.

It now becomes my goal as IFGE chairman to concentrate my efforts and strive to accomplish these imperatives. I hope that all who feel as I do, all who would like to see IFGE succeed in becoming the Foundation we need to serve the gender community, will join me in this quest.

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(JoLynne has offered to write an on-going column on issues related to her profession [image consultant] and areas of interest and expertise [healing and spiritual harmony and education]. Before she began her column, which will begin in issue #53, I recommended she use this opportunity to introduce herself to you and tell you a bit about what she would like to achieve. -- MSL)

INTRODUCING JO LYNNE WHITE

My name is Jo Lynne White. I am a female presently working in Manhattan as an image consultant for crossdressers and transsexuals.

Being involved with the TV/TS Community has been a most rewarding experience; one which I pray will continue for many years to come. I would like to share with you a little bit about my life, my reasons for becoming involved with the Community, and some of my hopes for the future.

I was the daughter of a Marine Corps officer, the second oldest child in a family of eight. In my family there was always order with an emphasis on outward appearances. Orders were obeyed without question. There was little emphasis on feelings, intuition, or questioning the relevance of social values. When I was about three or four years old I remember being happy, playful, and spontaneous. However, I was receiving mixed messages on how to behave from people around me, and by the age of five, in order to survive, I shut down emotionally.

I began to play the role... made good grades, did my chores, never argued, didn't get into trouble, and was successful at most everything I tried. To get affirmation from others, and avoid my emotions, I excelled at most activities and kept busy. In fact I did such a good job at keeping busy I didn't even know I was unhappy, insecure, felt worthless most of the time, and angry. It never even occurred to me my life could be different.

"Don't talk, don't trust, and don't feel" became my motto. The result was the developmentment of a deeply repressed sense of rage. To deal with my stuffed anger, I turned to alcohol.

On the surface things appeared fine - I completed my undergraduate and graduate studies in college, advanced ahead easily in my career, and in 1984 became an owner of my own health care business. My career made it easy for me to deny there was anything wrong with my life, but I was tired, I was tired of being tired and pushing myself unmercifully during the day only to drink at night to numb the feelings.

(JoLynne White)
(Photo: Renee Chevalier)

In 1985 I finally came to the conclusion I could no longer run away from myself. Exhaustion and alcohol was not an answer. Then a small voice inside told me I didn't **have** to live that way anymore. It told me to change my life..., after all, what did I have to lose? Up until then I had lived my life listening to my ego, and it certainly hadn't brought me happiness. Sure, I had the outward signs of success, yet inwardly I was not successful.

Then I did something I didn't usually do. I listened to my intuition, and took the first step to change my life. I joined a 12-step support group, and with its help, I stopped drinking. Then I listened to my little voice once again and decided to move to New York City. The very next day I handed in my resignation to my business partner, and three weeks later was living in Manhattan.

The move to the City was a big risk for me, a risk based solely on intuition. I had little money, no job, and no place to live. Luckily, I found my apartment easily, but I had to earn some money until I found the "right" job.

Having excellent sewing skills, I thought making women's clothing would be a good way to earn money until I found that job. I placed an ad in the 'Village Voice' newspaper. Immediately men began calling, asking me to

make women's clothing for them. One of the men, who called herself 'Patricia', told me about the Crossdressing Community and the need for someone with my skills. Once again I listened to my intuitive voice, and I followed Patricia's advice.

It didn't take long to realize that with my sewing skills together with my training in make-up and dressing for success, I had found the "right" job -- an image consultant for crossdressers and transsexuals. I enjoyed my work, but far more importantly I found that by helping men get in touch with the feminine part of their psyches, I was better able to get in touch with my own softer, gentler side; something I had repressed since early childhood.

My masculine energy, my animus, had helped me learn to interact with the world to get what I wanted and accomplish the goals I had set for myself. My animus had dominated my life to the point I was only comfortable relating to the world through an intellectual, rational viewpoint. Today, I am learning to trust my feminine energy, my anima, my non-rational side more and more. I am learning to let go of my comfortable way of relating to the world. I am learning to take risks.

Taking risks entails stepping outside the social boundaries of "what a woman is supposed to be". I'm no longer willing to fit into a box that is determined by someone else. For me, the goal is to achieve a sense of balance and serenity in my life whereby I accept BOTH my masculine and feminine energies and use them effectively to become more of a whole person.

My work in the TV/TS Community has been instrumental in helping me on this journey. When I help a man create his feminine look and allow him the freedom to experience and express his feminine energy, it also helps me to get in touch with that very same energy within myself. This continues to lead to a greater feeling of softness and gentleness on my part. This does not take away from my strength and power in any way, rather, it adds to my sense of fulfillment, of being a whole person.

Although I have always enjoyed wearing feminine looking lingerie and clothes, I have become even more aware of my appearance through my interactions with my clients. Women can learn a great deal about improving their feminine appearance and getting in touch with their own softness through knowing men who crossdress. Some of my best teachers have been TVs.

Another reward I experience from my work is having the knowledge that there are men out there courageous enough to step over socially-imposed boundaries about what is appropriate behavior for a man. The crossdressers and transsexuals I have met have been intelligent, sensitive, and creative. They were not afraid to get in touch with their female energy. These same men have shown a willingness to get in touch with their emotions and express them to me. Sharing their vulnerabilities with me made them more real.

All too often people, people like me, go through life hiding behind the mask of acceptability, feeling trapped inside self-imposed and socially-imposed rules. Women are slowly changing their image, and yet society won't allow men the same freedom. Why?

Another joy stemming from my work deals with the feminization process. Not only do I get to share in the joy a person dressing for the first time experiences, I allow my creative energies expression through the makeup and clothing selection processes. It's fun to experiment with color and with different looks. Sometimes, someone will come to see me and I have no idea what I'm going to do.

Feeling Female is a State of Mind

It has nothing to do with gender. Each of us has male and female energies within us at all times. One of our greatest challenges is to develop these energies fully, so they can interact in harmony with each other.

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Oh, I have the knowledge and experience to apply makeup, but what specific colors and shading will be most appropriate for this person? I usually take a deep breath, ask for guidance and then try to listen to my inner voice. If I allow myself to become nervous and THINK about what I SHOULD do, I won't be nearly as effective.

It seems the more I trust my inner voice, that feminine part of my psyche, the more effective I am, and the happier and more peaceful I feel. There's an intuitive "knowingness" which tells me what to do. An energy flows through my body, and I'm able to get everything done without pushing myself. When I ignore my intuition and listen instead to the Board of Directors meeting in my head, my energy tends to become blocked, leaving me feeling tired and drained. It also seems that what is true for me is also true for my clients.

Each one of us has the ability to be calm, peaceful and accepting of ourselves, and each of us has the right to be happy. However, all too often we compare ourselves with how we think we should be, according to someone else's guidelines, and destroy our chance for peace and self-acceptance. My goal as an image consultant is to help men create a more feminine look and get in touch with that softer, gentler, more intuitive part of their psyches. Through my work I try to help them achieve a sense of balance whereby both the masculine and feminine parts are accepted and used together to create a sense of wholeness.

I plan to continue working with the TV/TS Community, not only to help people achieve a sense of wholeness, but to help decrease to level of ignorance so people can be accepted for who they are regardless of the clothing they choose to wear. I want to see more dialogue take place within the Community to offer support to crossdressers and their significant others in accepting ourselves totally, regardless of gender. I want to help people understand the message, "I am enough. You are enough. I may not be perfect, yet I believe I'm right where I'm supposed to be and life offers lessons to help me along the way."

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TAPESTRY MAILBAG

Comment On Hormones

Dear Editor

I enjoyed your last issue of the Tapestry. However, I would like to respond to the hormones article, "Dream Goal Or Time Bomb". I took premarin 1.25 mg a day for six months. My experience is inconsistent with some of the statements in that article.

First, I found stopping to be no problem. Also discontinuing estrogen **did reverse** the feminizing effects on breasts, penis, and secondary fat. I did change appearances back to a more masculine look and feel.

Next, premarin (in me at this dosage) did not cause loss of erection. Also, the penis was not painful during sex.

Next, I noticed no atrophy of testicles at all, or even a loss of sex drive.

My doctor told me that the negative side effect, mild depression, would come and go. He was right.

Estrogen did work to make me look more feminine, but effects were short term. This may be good news for hormone users who refer to the Tapestry for professional advice on hormones.

I did have high blood pressure while using premarin, but my pressure has gone down since I ceased taking the hormone. Everyone has to see a doctor prior to going on hormones. Serious illness could result from taking unsupervised doses of estrogen, natural or synthetic. There is a big medical book on hormone use in most larger public reference libraries (e.g. Boston Public library).

- Barbara Alexander (RI)

Dear Editor,

My name is Arlena. I am a crossdresser, and I am proud to be one. Last November I joined the Indiana Crossdresser Society (IXE), and in December went public for the very first time. Since then I have become much happier with myself and really enjoy my feminine personality.

I am a subscriber to your wonderful magazine, and received my first copy a couple of weeks ago. Both my wife and I found it to be very interesting and informative. I have read it from cover to cover and some of the articles and letters at least twice. The articles I enjoyed the best were 'Virginia' by Merissa Sherrill Lynn, 'Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow' by Virginia Prince, 'Epitaph for Welma' and 'Support Groups' by Milesa Phar. These were very well written and they touched my heart very deeply.

Please keep up the good work in the publication of the Tapestry, as it does a great service to the TV-TS Community. The Tapestry has answered many questions that I have been asking myself about my feminine personality and my desires to be a crossdresser.

With the help of my sisters of the Indiana Crossdresser Society (IXE) and your fine magazine I have been able to accept myself and my feminine personality. I am at ease with myself for the very first time. I have quite a bit of growing to do, and I am looking forward to it.

Arlena Parrish (OH)

(ATTN: WIVES)

(The following letter was written by Mary, the wife of Kim, a crossdresser from Southern Indiana. The letter concerns "The Issue Of Respect.")

Dear Editor,

When a TV is married it seems to me that he encounters special problems. Many can be worked out by tolerance and love, but there is one feeling that MUST be present in the marriage, and that is RESPECT.

It is too easy for a woman who feels at ease with her gender to look down upon her husband. The main reason, I think, is that he is (to her) a clumsy imitation of what SHE is naturally.

He may be a very stunning look-alike, but to HER, he is simply aping the real thing. She may even think that he is trying to usurp her rights and privileges as a woman, and taking from her the only thing that is uniquely hers.

The wife must remember that she did not marry her husband simply because he was a MAN. (If she did, then SHE has a problem.) She married him for his human qualities, irrespective of gender. She loved his kindness, his strength, his abilities, and his love for HER. She must remember that these qualities exist in both men and women, and that she is married to a PERSON. That person is a human being who is worthy of respect.

I know that there are many marriages where the husband and wife do NOT respect each other, but how happy are they? If Mom ridicules Dad in front of the children, or Dad makes cutting remarks about Mom's

extra pounds in front of her friends, that marriage is headed for trouble.

Why do we get married in the first place? For love, companionship and safety, and for the purpose of bringing up children.

I wouldn't want a companion whom I couldn't respect, and who had no respect for me. I could not respect a child-abuser, a wife-beater, a lazy slob. My husband is none of these things. His is an ambitious, intelligent, compassionate human being, with a sense of humor. He also lends me his clothes. Who could ask for anything more?

- Mary (IN)

"THE FASHION ARGUMENT"

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on a very valuable publication. In particular, the editorial in issue #48, "The Fashion Argument", written by Merissa Sherrill Lynn, deserves special praise.

Part of Merissa's message was that we should not apologize to others for being what we are. Nor should we justify our inclinations by proffering various reasons for what we are, some of which are either false, or mere rationalizations. (After all, how many crossdressers, as young boys, were really dressed as girls by our mothers or aunts?)

All of us are entitled to rights, by virtue of being alive, by merely being human. Dressing in public will offend some people, and there is nothing that any of us can do to change that. I am sorry for those I offend, and wish that it weren't so, but since I do have a right to dress as I wish, I don't see why I should apologize for offending them.

But, if we expect to be tolerated when we are being ourselves, it follows that we should also be tolerant and understanding of others that don't perfectly fit the mold society has cast. Many groups come to mind - poor people, racial minorities, handicapped, gays - and surely there are hundreds of other groups. Maybe that's why God made transvestites, so that we might better understand and support others that don't easily fit the "normal" mold.

As transvestites, we must respect ourselves, and we should respect others also. We should not always fear what others will think. Naturally, I would prefer to always pass, but I know that sometimes I don't. Yet that does not, and should not prevent me from dressing in public, because it is my right to do so. After all, each time one of us fails to pass, we nonetheless educate those very eyes that pierce our veil of makeup. If we conduct ourselves properly when read, with feminine dignity rather than cowardice, then our misfortune will at least have the silver lining of making it that much easier for the next crossdresser that ventures out in public.

Sincerely,
Cindi J., Dallas, TX

(Reprinted with permission,
Yvonne Cook, IFGE Director of Operations)

Dear Yvonne,

Please forgive my presumptuousness in including this letter to you with my order and small contribution, but because of your kind words I feel very satisfied and I must express my thanks.

I am 43 years old and I've had desires to dress for about 30 years, but I never indulged myself entirely. I was always alone and whenever I would start to dress I would find an excuse to stop what I was doing and then revert back to my male self. In my life-long search for acceptance and assistance I came across an advertisement for the 'Tapestry'. Not knowing what to expect I called to order the latest issue. At that time you spoke to me with understanding, and gave me encouragement.

Shortly after our conversation I received issue #51 and devoured it and called you. Once again you took the time to talk to me. Your conversations and the 'Tapestry' are what I've been looking for all my life. I now realize that there is nothing to be ashamed of and there is a positive side to dressing.

Subsequent to our second conversation I've put into motion a plan and a schedule for my "coming out" (with the help of a consultant) and the anticipation is the second most wonderful feeling of my life. (The first was when I fell in love.) (My desires to dress caused that relationship to disintegrate overnight, but even to this day I cannot regret my honesty with my fiancee.)

Regardless, I want you to know that 'Ken' has finally located 'Kathy', and always will deal with her with equality and respect. If you had not taken the time to talk to me, Kathy might have stayed hidden forever. For this I am eternally grateful.

Yvonne, we may not be able to give birth, but you should be proud in knowing that you indeed did create another human being.

Thank you again.

Kathy M. (NJ)

(Edited from a follow-up letter)

Dear Yvonne,

My coming out is proceeding slowly but steadily, and deliberate. Feelings of contentment and happiness have manifested themselves and my current state of mind

is almost ecstatic. I now know there are wonderful adventures awaiting me. Normally I would say that I regret not having made this decision about ten years ago, but if I had I would not be experiencing these feelings now. Does that make sense?

Kathy M. (NJ)

LOOKING FOR SUPPORT GROUP IN ALASKA

Dear Editor,

I am a 36 year old male and have been crossdressing for as long as I can remember. I have also been at war with my feminine side for almost the same amount of time. In order to sublimate my femininity I engaged in the most outlandish macho behavior often risking my life as well as those around me. From volunteering as a combat photographer in Viet Nam, to playing Arkansas redneck, and Alaskan mountain man I attempted to stuff 'Kyndel' away under a facade of pseudo masculinity. I not only failed in this, I have wasted huge amounts of energy maintaining this facade.

To make a long and, I'm sure, familiar story short, I struggled along until 1985, when I was hospitalized with (wonder of wonders) acute depression. At this time I was fortunate and came in contact with an excellent therapist. For the first time in my life I could discuss this aspect of my life with someone who was non-judgmental and very supportive. He showed me the road to 'being' and 'becoming', and the possibility of integration of body, mind, and spirit. Over the next two years I dealt with issues of repeated childhood sexual abuse, substance abuse, and most importantly, integration of Kyndel and Bill.

At present I am enrolled in school working toward a Masters degree and depending on energy levels a PhD in Clinical Psychology.

I have contacted a number of helping professionals trying to locate a support/social group for transvestites, crossdressers, and people in gender transition in the Anchorage area only to find that such an organization does not exist. I wish to enlist your assistance in helping me to form such an organization.

After my wife and I read the booklet "Partners Of Crossdressers" and the Tiffany Club's Spring Outing offering, a sigh of relief came from both of us. Knowing we were not alone and that there are a great many others who have accepted this part of life, and both rejoice and cry in its uniqueness, lifted a huge weight from our shoulders. I would like to be instrumental in offering that same relief, a measure of acceptance to others and to myself, in Alaska the Last Frontier.

Kyndel Mercedes K.
Anchorage, AK

Dear Editor,

This idea may be of interest to other readers of the Tapestry. It's something that a newfound (genetic female) friend hand-wrote to me upon our second meeting. By that time, she knew all about my TS inclinations. She wrote this while she, her husband, and I were sitting around their living room getting to know each other better.

C. W.

There is no shelter
For persons in the process of becoming.
Caterpillars changing into butterflies
do not do so publicly.
Tearing open a cocoon during metamorphosis
We would be appalled by so alien a beauty,
familiar as we are with absolutes.
How dare you metamorphosize so openly -
how dare you metamorphosize at all?

Our is a world of caterpillars
denying we are also butterflies.
Why can't you be satisfied
to crawl along like everybody else?
What kind of example are you setting?
Soon everyone will believe
they too can change.
What kind of a world will we have then?

At least have the decency to hide
Your altered state in a cocoon of shame.
We'll all pretend it isn't happening
And that way no one else need ever know
How beautiful, so beautiful
you are.

- Sara

You can imagine how I felt, receiving this from a new friend. The manuscript has become one of my most treasured keepsakes. We agreed that I should send it in for possible publication with the thought that someone else out there might be as warmed as I was by the piece.

Charlene Mann (MA)

More on Hormones and Breast Development

Dear Editor,

I am a basically lifelong and fairly serious crossdresser, and have read your publication for many years. I'm 35 and just now overcoming my lifelong fears and guilt about the "practice". My recent marriage to an accepting woman, and, frankly, her encouragement, are the catalyst for this letter, my first such communication.

My wife and I felt these comments concerning hormones and breast development may help someone.

You are to commended for pointing out the apparent real risks that are present when they are utilized. I don't know so, but I would imagine a black market exists in these drugs, and therefore the warnings are more important since they may be the girls' only source of knowledge concerning these matters. In the extensive reading I have done over the years, there seems to exist an almost exclusive desire for breast development in both hormone users and non-users. Users measure success of hormone therapy in cup sizes and little else. For sure there is usually some decrease in body hair and even a softening of the skin, but the success, the real success is almost always touted in breast development.

I am surprised that more crossdressers haven't turned to stretching the breasts as an alternative to hormones. I've practiced the procedure for many years (actually since I was a child) and I've corresponded with others who have done so quite successfully. The practice is not new either. Actually I discovered it when I read about it in a woman's magazine over 20 years ago. The article warned mothers to watch for their developing daughters wearing snug bras with oversized cups, pulling and tugging breasts and surrounding tissue into the cups to appear larger. It seems this practice can semipermanently alter breast size and shape.

When I met my wife-to-be a couple of years ago, eventually summer arrived and I HAD to remove my shirt one day. Like most people, not immediately, but fairly soon she commented on my "somewhat fleshy (I love the term) chest." Like always, I just passed it off as hereditary and nothing more was said UNTIL I revealed myself as a crossdresser. Then I was accused of using hormones, and the more she read about this subject the more convinced she was that I MUST be on hormones.

I ultimately "proved" that I'm not on hormones and she believes me completely. I shared the catalog of one of your advertisers that features a special bra designed solely for this purpose with her and showed her my own collection of those and other bras specially altered to stretch the breasts. When Issue 51 arrived we both read it with interest, but it was my wife who commented that (after reading the article on hormones) she couldn't imagine why anyone would go through all those problems if all they really wanted were breasts.

I solve the hair problem in the shower every morning in a couple of minutes. I keep my skin smooth with frequent baths laced with moisturizers. I apply three hormonal "breast creams" to my breast area each morning. I have no illusion that these products (ordered from the last few pages of Cosmo) have, or will be the catalyst for substantive breast development; but they do make the breasts soft and smooth and the nipples constantly erect and considerably more sensitive than without the creams.

I'm 5'9", 150 lbs, size 12 or 14, and am a natural 34C. Now that's not incredibly busty for my size and weight, but I definitely have breasts. I can "pull off" being a male and topless when necessary (I lay down with my arms in back of me a lot) although invariably the subject of a few "comments". When I got married I was a 34D but my wife was uncomfortable with my size so I reduced my "program" and "shrank" down to a C. The variability of size is one of the real assets of the stretching program.

- ANON

Compuserve/Genderline

Dear Editor,

I am 37 and have been dressing for over 28 years. I am married and have four - soon to be five - children. My wife knows and tries to understand, but isn't terribly tolerant (how many times have you heard that line?). I have been very active on the Human Sexuality Forum on Compuserve for about 14 months, and have recently been named a section leader for the Genderline section.

Before finding Genderline, I had many episodes of troublesome feelings about my dressing. Since finding it, and meeting some really great people online there, I have fully accepted my dressing as one of my most cherished activities, and no longer feel guilty, or ashamed. Because of this, I have spent much time helping others achieve the acceptance of their behavior. Genderline and other BBS's provides a great way to learn something factual, meet other people like you, and grow together in a supportive environment in the privacy of your own home. At present, I am compiling a listing of BBS's which cater to the gender community, and when final, I will submit a copy to you, as I feel this is a valuable resource for others to have available.

A recent member to IFGE, and subscriber to Tapestry, I find your journal to be the most informative, and authoritative source of information available. I have confidence that you are headed in the right direction, and am very pleased with the work you and all the folks at IFGE are doing to make our cause better understood.

Jennifer Wells
P.O. Box 1417
Troy, NY 12181

Dear Editor,

While I was rereading my issue of the Tapestry, and my letter on the subject of personal encounters with the Samoan Fafafinee (man/woman), I saw a television travelogue in which Celebes Islands traders called "Bahus" (my spelling). From an assumption that the Bahus are related, linguistically at least, with the Mahus of Tahiti, then the reader may possibly assume that the Bugis

Street of Singapore, which is known for its TV and TS population, is named after the 'Bugee' island traders who may have transported some transvestites from these islands.

Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

Dreams

Dear Editor,

Tapestry #51 had a number of letters relating to dreams. Dreams can have many meanings, from a TV dreaming of that pretty dress in the store window to a CD's dream of coming out of the closet and making her debut in public, or perhaps the larger dream of our culture being accepted in society at large. But the question is, do TVs or TSs actually dream while asleep of being a TV or TS? I think that I can answer that with a great big yes!

Ordinarily, people don't remember too many dreams after awaking, but I can vividly remember two of mine. Broadly, in the first dream I dreamed that I was staying in a large Florida resort hotel. I was known to the staff as a TV, and I had the run of the place. The second dream concerned my taking a taxi back to the hotel one night, and the driver decided to use a dirt road lined by trees and bushes, going to the same hotel, but to the back entrance. Upon turning onto the dirt road, the taxi driver had a heart attack and collapsed at the wheel and the car pulled over to the side of the road and stopped. I got out and went to the hotel for help. I was dressed but not wearing a wig! I'm sure this has significance to a dream analyst or psychologist, but for me it was exciting.

Rhonda S. (MA-0317)

Dear Editor,

Well, you did it again! I never thought that #50 could be improved on, but #51 is a zinger.

I like the bio of yourself. Do you remember how we first became acquainted? ... The old International Alliance. The first publication I received had your letter about the ski thing. I think the first time we met face to face was at a Tri-Ess meeting at Cherrystone in Boston. That was a long time ago.

Now, to business. This 'TV' syndrome has been bothering me for years. Much has been written about it, but little is known. Throughout history men have suddenly and without knowing exactly why, changed their careers and their lifestyles. Why? There has to be an inner conflict with the status quo.

I'm here thinking about the latent TV who is suddenly overpowered with the desire to crossdress. Why? He must find an escape mechanism that will protect his sanity and reject the male world. What better (and saner) way than to adopt the female role?

I have to believe that there is suddenly a breaking point, the underlying reason not clear to a person. Something is about to snap. I also have to believe that the brain is a separate and reasoning entity, capable of making a decision by itself. Let us imagine a brain suddenly confronted with a frustration of great magnitude. Searching itself it checks its memory banks and finds that it has thousands of pleasant memories of heels, long legs, etc., etc., etc. It could well find thousands of unpleasant memories as well. To protect itself it chooses the least violent escape - transvestism.

I am not a scholar or a philosopher. We know what we are but, at what point did the brain pull the trigger, and why?

- Dee Dee W.

Dear Editor,

After what seemed a painstaking lapse of time, Issue #51 appeared. Quite simply, it was well worth the wait and whetted the want for more. All who made the effort and provided the sensitivity, creativity, and courage to produce the Tapestry are to be thoroughly commended.

While many of the issues that were raised were of help to me, I took particular delight in Merissa Sherrill Lynn's 'Definitions Of Terms'. The section on helping professionals was apt and most needful in the greater scheme of things. I can but cite my own experience in support of her thesis.

For a good number of years, I served in variant clergy capacities, prison and military chaplain, campus minister, and parish minister in several locales. My post graduate degrees and continuing education were from worthy institutions. In nearly all of this time I found myself called to give help to and to find help for a rather large number of folks expressing deep and wrenching sexual dysphoria (although this and other terms were not then available). In short, by office and training and degree, I fit quite well into the role of a traditional helping professional.

Throughout all, my own femininity was, by me, known-denied, enjoyed-shunned, loved-hated, and completely closeted. When this sort of secrecy would no longer sustain my life and seemed unnecessary, I sought and gained some beginning help from "helping professionals". They helped some, they gave me some shy courage to seek out eyes that would know and accept me, and souls that would take me in. Credentials beyond that were of no importance. Wonder of wonders, the eyes and souls were/ are to be found. through their help, my 'she-me' is known and celebrated without qualm in me and beyond me.

Even now I'm not altogether sure of my 'label', and I'm not sure I need one. For now, my "she" is real, and

known, and living, and loving, and being loved, and she got here not through people who were paid to know her, but by those who patiently did.

Thank you all for what you do for me.

Jessica Macaulay (MN)

INTRODUCING 'F2M'
ATTN: Female to Male Crossdressers and Transsexuals

Dear Editor,

My name is Johnny. I am the founder of **'F2M'**, a newly formed support organization created by and for female-to-male transsexuals and cross-dressers.

'F2M' is a non-profit self-help group. We are currently planning social events (in the New York City area), and compiling a confidential contact list, and a comprehensive resource directory. We will publishing a newsletter in the near future.

Knowledge is the key to the door of gender reassignment. Up-to-date information is essential to the complex decision-making process that faces us. If we can network by feeding our collective knowledge into a central database, the information will be available to all who need it.

We urge all F-to-M TSs and CDs to write to us. Tell us whatever is on your mind, ask us questions. We are here for you - use us!

"F2M", c/o S.G.
P.O. Box 615
Tenafly, NJ 07670

INTRODUCING 'GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES'

Dear Friends,

Thank you for an excellent issue of Tapestry #51. I wanted to write you to inform you of the new group/organization, 'Gender Community Advocates', here in Central California.

Our group is so new we do not even have a letterhead of anything printed yet, but our outreach/networking goals are in progress and I wish to assure you this is a sincere, long-term, professionally supported effort. Our non-profit status is provided by the Universal Life Church Inc. (Modesto, CA) Universal Life Education project of which I am a minister (ord 1976). Our professional support director is Dr. William R. Cameron Ph.D., Psychotherapy CA PM 8164, previously associated with Johns Hopkins and U of T Centers. (Dr. Cameron is not associated with W/ULC and is in private practice of Clinical Psychology.)

I look forward to networking with you, and thank you so much for your support.

Gender Community Advocates
c/o Ms Tauria Linala
512 W. Evergreen
Santa Maria, CA 93454
(805) 922-1309

Dear Editor,

I have been a TV for nearly as long as I can remember. However, my wife never knew until 5 weeks ago when she came home unexpectedly and caught me. I then ordered your publication 'Tapestry' and let her read it. It helped her very much to understand a problem that is so hard to understand. I sure wish that there was a wives support group in the area, but out here in North Dakota there isn't much available as you may guess.

Keep up the good work and keep your magazine clean. It is the only TV/TS magazine I have seen that I would show to my wife.

Mary N. (ND)

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SPECIAL FEATURE

NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS

By: Kay Gould

"Bonjour Darlings!
And an Imperial Kiss-Kiss to all of our distinguished guests from near and far. By our royal decree, there shall be music and dancing and champagne and repast And, the piece d'resistance; our own Casino Royale, where fortunes and hearts may be wagered on prizes or romance, or both.
Imperial hugs and kisses, Sybil I Empress of New York"

So read my invitation to the second "Night of A Thousand Gowns", the biggest and splashiest charity event in the New York gay community's season. With official good wishes from Congressman Ted Weiss and Mayor Koch the famed and very posh Waldorf Astoria once again became the mecca for people attending this fabulous fund raiser.

The New York Court is but one of more than fifty such Imperial Courts throughout the US. All have the same objective-the organization of fund raising events held throughout the year. Like most other courts throughout the country, the majority of the funds raised go to local charities but every year, one or more national charities are also selected to receive some of the proceeds of the ball.

The Imperial Court system has a long history and was started by Jose Sarria in 1965. Jose, then already notorious as San Francisco's "Black Cat Cafe's Sunday night opera queen, declared himself the "Dowager Widow of the Emperor Norton, Empress of San Francisco, and Protectress of Mexico". Emperor Norton was a famous San Francisco eccentric who is reputed to have made several fortunes and lost all of them. Joshua Norton was famous for his belief in the individuality of man and his right thereto.

"Empress" Jose began what has ulti-

(Kay Gould)

mately become a system of royal centers ranging from San Diego to Anchorage and Honolulu to New York. The Court system has as many facets and distinctions as the people it's services touch. For a child in San Diego it is a pair of new shoes raised by that court's Children's Shoe Drive. To a person with AIDS in Idaho, it is the entire AIDS foundation initiated by the Boise Court. For the members of the entire Court system across the US and in Canada, it is a way to make both personal connections and community contributions. Make no mistake the focus of the effort and contributions is the gay and lesbian community. However, the TV community is completely welcome and encouraged to participate openly. The Courts are the most effective fund raisers in the gay community. For many straight politicians, the Courts have proven to be an entrance into the considerable voting block represented by the gay community.

Many women participate in the Courts however. It is not just "men in dresses". Men and women in every walk of life are attracted to the heart and haute of the Imperial Courts. The Courts themselves proudly declare, "Everyone is Welcome". This "national" council of community social organizations has branches in most of the major cities of the US and Canada. For that matter, other than the membership, the "camp" coronations are not that dissimilar from the Shriners, Elks or other organizations.

But what of the event itself. As one arrives at the Waldorf Astoria they are met by a large happy crowd of men and women, a red carpet, klieg lights and television cameras. Lest one panic, they are from the Gay Cable Network. A dashing young man in a tuxedo, microphone in hand, greets arriving guests as they exit from their limousines. There is wave after wave of appreciative applause and oohs and aahs. Everyone is greeted warmly and interviewed. It soon becomes obvious that many other cities are represented from Anchorage to San Diego. Starting at 7:30 the early birds arrive seeking to be on hand as the many "royally" dressed guests arrive. It is truly an "award nite" spectacle.

The Court has taken the entire Starlite Ballroom floor for the evening. As you make your way through the crowded lobby, the appreciative applause continues for many hotel guests obviously appreciate the tremendous hard work that goes into such attire. As one exits from the elevator at the Starlite Roof, the strains of a large orchestra fill your ears. The Royal Cloakroom is first to greet you and then you make your way to the ballroom itself. The arrivals find their tables and then head for either one of the many bars or the dance floor. There you are greeted by people you've never met with a warmth and friendship quite uncommon these days. The first thing one notices is the lack of hangups. People are obviously there to have fun and to make sure that everyone else does.

For all the out-of-towners, who were invited to a party at the incoming Emperor's home the night before, the newly made friendships are renewed. As you can see from the photos elegance is the word for the night. The Bill Harrington Orchestra continues for almost two hours until time for dinner. Although most have tables, dinner is open buffet style. But buffet is a poor choice for the regal repast we were offered. The supply is never ending and the palate ticklers are unbelievable.

After dinner, around midnight we are treated to the formal entrance of their royal majesties Emperor George the First and Empress Sybil and the entire Imperial Family of NY. While the crown heads in each court are elected in a hard fought community wide election, the members of the Court family are appointed by their majesties. We are treated to an elegant retinue of courtiers, dukes, duchesses, princes and princesses. The best is yet to come as everyone from the most novice "debutante" and visitor is afforded the opportunity to be presented to their royal majesties and the entire throng.

As the evening moves on, the Casino is opened and more fun is had while raising almost $7000 for charity. The Casino is but a step

on the way to the evening's climactic entertainment. First however, we must see the changing of the Palace Guard. What would a royal ball be without the crowning of the new Emperor and his lady. It begins with a procession of the New York Court members and finally the new royal personages.

His Imperial Majesty, Roux-Vaine I, the first Jewish emperor of NY and Her Imperial Majesty Champagne, The Crystal Empress II of New York enter to a grand processional march. The crowd is stunned by the beauty of Champagne and gasps at the incredible elegance of her gown. Roux-Vaine is a tall extremely handsome dark haired man of obvious regal proportions and persona. You can hear the crowds approval of their new leaders. As the mantle of leadership is passed, symbolized by the crowning, the fun still comes through. This is a crowd pleased with and unabashedly proud of their contribution to human dignity and individuality. They understand that for the new Royal couple there is a year of incredible hard work and dedication ahead. Attendance at as many as thirteen coronations at other courts is mandatory for some Emperors and Empresses in other cities. New York's Court will be no exception.

As their Imperial Majesties take their place on the throne, we are treated to the talent of Mr. Jimmy James, doing a most incredible Marilyn Monroe impression. But the evening is never over when the ball ends. Last year the party moved on to Tracks and this evening another institution in NY, The Saint was having its final night. The party does not end at the Saint till the following evening.

The memories of the ball linger long after it is over. For first timers, such as Sheila from Pittsburgh, Eve from Chicago, and Adrienne from Long Island, the impressions are so strong and warm that they go away committed to return as I did the year before.

For the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center of New York, its more than fifty user organizations and more than 3000 people who pass through its doors each week, its means a greater chance to serve.

For the Human Rights Campaign Fund, which has risen to become one of the 20 largest of the more than 1200 independent PACs it means additional critical resources.

For the AIDS Action Council based in DC, it means more resources to deal with members of Congress on critical issues for the community. The Council now serves and represents all 230 US based AIDS service providing organizations.

For the NGLTF, the oldest and largest gay and lesbian civil rights advocacy and public education organization it means the services they provide to ensure equality will continue.

For the People With AIDS Coalition it means more help is possible.

The Imperial Court system, above all is men and women of all persuasions. Its empresses and emperors, dukes, and duchesses, and the leagues of uncommon courtiers, have chosen to make a continuing commitment to stay involved, to make connections that count, no matter what the cost in time and money. Involvement with the Court is always a heavy expenditure of both time and money but is a burden welcomed by all who participate. While it is a young twenty three years old, the Court system is just coming into its own. While it may seem just a channel for money, it is not. Whenever intolerance rears its ugly head, as it has with political manipulators like Anita Bryant or Lyndon Larouche, who attempt to restrict the rights of others, the Courts have raised thousands of dollars and worked to defeat these bigots. They have recognized as we must, that to enable someone to deprive another person of their rights, makes it easier to select you next for that same treatment. The Court system brings support for the battle for equality and dignity for our elderly, the handicapped, the hungry and the homeless. What an incredibly wonder-

ful reason to dress and enjoy. All of us who attended this year hope to see you there next year and if there is a Court in your city let us know or better yet, try to make it to an event yourself.

H.I.M. ROUX VAINE I
Fist Jewish Emporer of NY

H.I.M. CHAMPAGE I

EMPEROR AND EMPRESS 1988

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

GEORGE i

SYBIL I

EMPEROR AND EMPRESS 1987

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

THE IMPERIAL COURT 1988

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

NIGHT OF A 1000 GOWNS
A MEMORY TO CHERISH AND TO HOLD

A Personal Account
By: Sheila Kirk

What a delight! I was going to a Coronation Ball in New York City at the famous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. I had stayed in that hotel a number of times in a male role and was quite familiar with the gorgeous lobbies, the restaurants, the lounges and the shops. What pleasure it would be to go into all of these familiar places as a woman. I looked forward to this with great pleasure and anticipation. Little did I know, to even half the extent, what experiences awaited me. It was to be one of the most wonderful weekends of my life.

On Friday morning I flew into La Guardia Airport with my usual fourteen pieces of luggage, and met my dearest friend Eve, who had just flown in from Chicago. We had shared such happy feelings, countless times on the phone, anticipating this trip. We managed to get everything into a cab and began our ride to the Waldorf. What excitement and what conversation we had. Still in our male clothing, we arrived at the hotel, anxiously registered and finally got into our room. How comfortable it was with such a beautiful and spacious bath. Two hours later, we were in the hallway heading for the elevators -- two lovely and well-dressed gals. We would be in this mode for the next two days and nights.

Our first task was to acquaint ourselves with the hotel and thereby allow the hotel to acquaint itself with us. Through the lobby we went to a very pleasant lounge, the Peacock Alley, where we had a very needed drink. Much to my delight, there was very little acknowledgement by neighboring imbibers.

Eve and I had been invited to a dinner party that afternoon, so after our refreshment we made our way out of the hotel where we stood in line with other guests waiting our turn for a taxi. It was a fast ride downtown to Mariette Pathy Allen's home in the Village, and we arrived earlier than expected. To our enjoyment, we were asked to help with some of the preparations and had time to become acquainted with Mariette's daughters, husband, and housekeeper. Soon guests arrived and we were delighted to see a number of friends from the TV Community and to make new acquaintances with many of Mariette's friends, quite a few from the so-called "straight" community. The acceptance was so special.

Sheila & Eve - Waldorf Astoria Balcony
(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

After several hours Eve, Adrienne Allen, Kay Gould and I left to go on to a second party. We taxied uptown to the home of one of the organizers of the Ball. We came to a delightfully furnished apartment and mixed with other guests who were entertainers and people who were part of the planning for the huge Ball to be given the next night. The food was absolutely marvelous and the entertainment just fantastic. The friendships we made there will long endure. But that time my soul was riding much higher than my high heels could take me.

We left the party at a reasonable hour, but the evening was still young. "Let's go out on the town!" We all agreed, so the four of us went downtown again stopping in several places, meeting people, drinking a little and mingling a lot. Eve and I met two old friends, Michelle and Monique, and decided to have late supper with them. We took leave of Adrienne and Kay, went to a very nice restaurant in the Village. After very good food in remarkable surroundings, at a quarter past two in the morning, we decided to "go home".

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Al)len)

It was so interesting. We had no problems whatever. It was almost as if no one even saw us for so little did anyone pay attention to us. I began to feel a little cheated. I really wanted to be noticed a lot! In any event Eve and I cabbed it back to the hotel, walked through a very deserted lobby to the elevators and then soon after we were in our rooms taking off our makeup.

As I slipped into my nightgown, so many reminiscences of the day came to mind and I crawled between the sheets and fell quickly to sleep. I was so anxious for the next day to begin and more for the evening to arrive.

Saturday morning was slow paced. We didn't emerge from our pretty cocoon until 11:00 a.m. I had reserved a table for us in the hotel's very elegant Bull and Bear restaurant. We wanted to meet Adrienne and Kay at noon. The headwaiter was so cordial and the waiters were so attentive. Everything was perfect - fantastic food and service and the tables around us were filled with beautifully dressed men and women. We filled the scene so well.... four lovely women having a Saturday luncheon together.

After lunch we were off to 5th Avenue to look into shops and perhaps purchase a thing or two. Kay and Eve did find shoes they liked. For my part, I was overwhelmed! I tried on shoes in one store on 5th Ave. and couldn't believe I was doing it. Glory! Me... in fashionable stores in New York City! I'm sure I was composed outwardly, but my heart was bursting with excitement and joy.

Then, all too quickly, it was time for hair appointments and we all went separate ways. I went back to the hotel to catch a nap and then to prepare for the Night of a Thousand Gowns, and that expected look into paradise.

'The Night Of A Thousand Gowns' is the name of the affair conceived, planned and beautifully conducted by the Imperial Court of New York City. Let me tell you a little about the Imperial Court System. The Courts are found in major cities throughout the United States and Canada. They function to serve the Gay Community both locally and nationally. Each Court has a reigning Emperor and Empress along with other members of the royal family and retinue. While a number of events and festivals are held during the year of reign, the high point of the year is this grand event when a new Emperor and Empress are crowned. Royalty from other courts attend and are presented along with members of this Court to the new royal couple. Invited guests and debutantes who wish to be presented are also part of the ceremonies and it all takes place before the entire Court and audience. There is much pageantry and solemnity to the special events of the evening. Heralds and courtiers, fanfares and grand en-

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

trances are notable throughout the evening and there is much to enjoy in the music, dancing, and casino gambling that is a part of it all. Truly a beautifully planned and executed event.

I brought with me a lovely black strapless floor length evening gown. Wearing this with jeweled slippers and rhinestone necklace and earrings, I felt, would be fitting and very attractive. I had a jeweled tiara to wear in my hair as well. I began my preparation taking extra care with my makeup. By the time Eve returned from the hairdressers, I was quite well along. She looked so lovely in a beautiful hair styling with braids and height. While she bathed and dressed, I fussed with my nails and completed my dressing. At last, we were walking down the hall to the elevator. Once in the lobby another fabulous chapter in our adventure began.

(Photos: Mariette Pathy Allen)

All the hotel was buzzing. Hotel guests and hotel personnel knew what was to take place that evening and all were curious. As we walked a long way through the luxurious main lobby toward the front entrance I knew virtually every eye was turned to us. I felt that there was real appreciation and admiration from so many in our audience. We both looked very beautiful and comfortable in our evening wear and all of these people felt it to be so as well. Eve, in a stunning white floor length gown with matching white slippers, was so beautiful with her wonderful carriage and poise. We were very attractive women and we commanded attention principally for that reason.

We planned to go to the large foyer near the main doorway. Here sipping champagne from a very advantageous place, we could sit and watch the exciting entrance of people going to the Ball. Limousines brought the happy arrivals to cameras, lights, and crowds of onlookers inside and outside the hotel. They wore beautiful clothes - gorgeous, simply gorgeous gowns, tails and white tie, ingenious costumes with fantastic hair arrangements and even some in masks. All drew "oohs and ahs" and often applause from several hundred hotel guests who stood in the foyer watching this fabulous entourage work its way to the elevators. For an hour or so we watched at times going down into the foyer to greet someone we had recently met and to have photos taken. We were thrilled to be a part of it and at one point Mariette, who was the official photographer for the Tapestry, took photos of Eve and I in different places in the lobby with various people who were arriving.

Soon we felt we should make our appearance at the Ball, so back we went through the larger lobby to the elevators and up to the Starlight Room. We were in heaven. The decor, the flowers and exciting colors, the lovely tables set for dinner, the music, the beautiful people - talking, moving about, and dancing. The effect was breathtaking. In fact, I don't believe I breathed for a very long time looking at this spectacular sight. My eyes carried message after message to my brain and then to my soul. This is glorious! I was so excited I could barely hold my purse and my glass at the same time. Party guests smiled at us, greeted us, introduced themselves to us, complimented us - we were transported!

It would take paragraphs to describe the food - beautiful presentments and tastes and it was endless. The orchestra was superb, conversation was exciting and animated. Before we knew it, 10:00 o'clock came, time for the ceremony to begin.

There was a sudden fanfare of horns, a quieting of the audience and a movement to seats. The coronation was about to begin. The coronation was an elaborate ceremony with much praise to the departing Emperor and Empress, and much tribute to those taking their place. A great deal of pomp and formality followed and the next royal couple was installed. Royalty from New York City court and other courts were presented along with a number of distinguished guests. Lastly there came presentation of the debutantes to the throne. Eve and I were invited to be a part of that presentation so at the appropriate time we took our places in line waiting to be introduced to the Emperor and Empress. The whole audience would be watching as each young woman advanced to the throne, her name and city of origin being announced at the same time. It was a long walk up the ramp with cameras clicking madly. I kept saying to myself - "I must do this slowly and with grace. I must curtsey and greet the royal couple with dignity, smiling all the while. I must do this right!" And before I knew it I was coming down from the throne with much applause in my ears and much joy in my heart. As I walked back to my seat I was overwhelmed with emotion and with tears in my eyes. It was a moment of acceptance of me by a large group of people who did not know me. They had told me that I was a person to be acknowledged for who I was and they gave me their appreciation of that fact. For me it was a very touching moment.

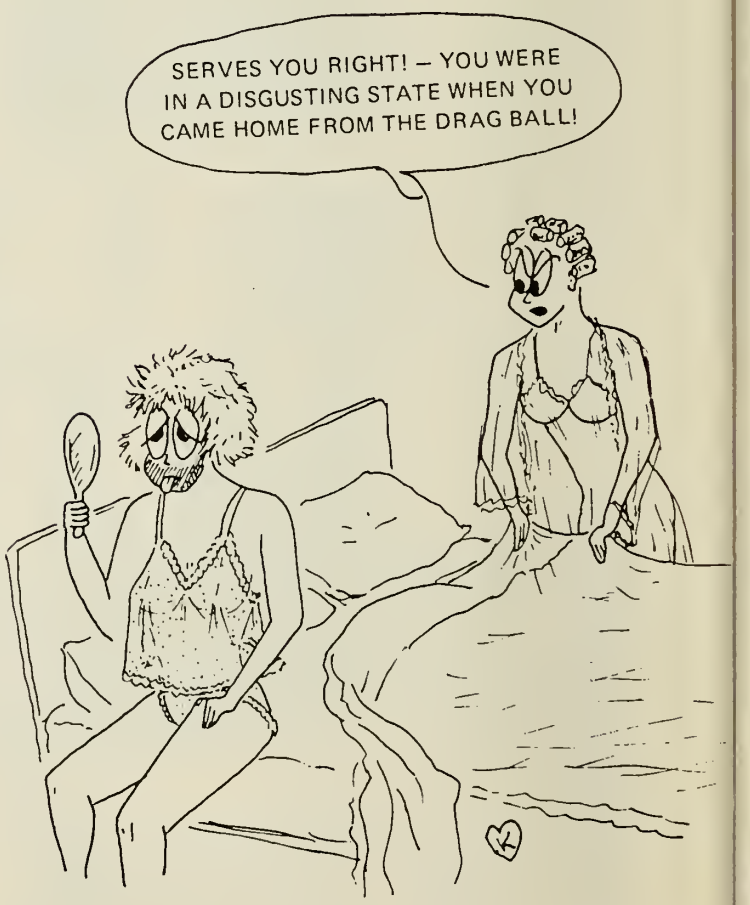
Following the grand ceremonies there was entertainment, more dancing, some fun moments in the gambling casino, more food to nibble and more people to meet and to talk with. Two a.m. came so quickly, and sadly it was all over. The Ball had come to an end. I had only begun to dance I thought - only started to sparkle. Why was it all over?

In truth, even though we were exhausted, Eve and I were not ready for sleep. We both had early flights in the morning but we were still alive and well, so off to one of the straight bars in the lobby downstairs for a nightcap. We worked our way to the ladies room to retouch hair and makeup before going into the lounge. Once inside we decided to sit right at the bar in the very middle of a large room filled with late nighters. Here we were in formal dress still feeling very beautiful but quite readable, I'm sure, with the whole room looking right at us! This lasted only a short few minutes and then we were a part of the furnishings. We had conversation with several couples near us and after 3:30 in the morning decided that Cinderella had nothing on us - perhaps we had better call it a night.

Once back in the room the makeup came off, the hair went into this box, the lingerie into that one, the shoes into any old suitcase and we hurried our packing so as to sleep for about two hours before leaving the hotel.

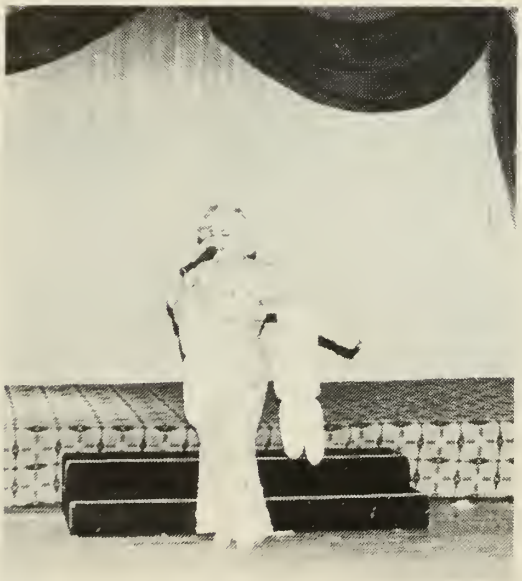
The next morning, back in male attire, Eve and I said our "good-byes, only for now," and we each boarded our planes for home. I didn't need my plane - I swear - I flew home outside the aircraft, I was still so high. Once home I called Eve, then we called each other daily recalling the delight and splendor of our glorious hours in New York City.

I will be returning to that celebration again in 1989. I hope to meet you there.



NIGHT OF A THOUSAND GOWNS PHOTOS

By: Mariette Pathy Allen



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SPECIAL FEATURE:

THE WEDDING OF KEVIN AND REN'EE

By:
Ren'ee Chevalier

On November 5th 1987 my wife and I were married; I as 'Ren'ee' and she as 'Kevin'. Our wedding started out as a lark, a fantasy. It turned out to be an event full of meaning, and love. It turned out to be one of the most important events in our lives.

For me a turnabout wedding would be the culmination of a life-long fantasy. For Karyn ('Kevin') the wedding would mean the acceptance of 'Ren'ee' into her life. For us both the wedding would be an action that would inform our community that we were in love with each other, and it did not matter what kind of clothes I wore.

When we began planning our wedding we thought of many things we could do or say. We were able to sit and talk of what we felt would come of this event, and what we hoped it would be. We were not prepared for what actually did happen.

The days before the wedding were hectic. I was a photographer at Fantasia Fair, and concentrated on developing my pictures until two days before the wedding. The church, the final food arrangements, and the minister had been taken care of the week before, and all seemed well. Then Murphy's law reared its ugly head.... everything that could go wrong - did!

I had to pay the church by 5:00 p.m. on Friday. Friday was a work day. (I'm a mechanic.) After a stressful day of problem solving

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

and getting myself sweaty and covered with grease, I left work to go to the church. I reached for the keys to my car. The keys were in the car. The car was locked. I tried the old coathanger through the window trick, but to no avail. I called the locksmith and waited - and waited. If I didn't get to the church by 5 I couldn't pay them, and there would be no service. Then, just as I was reaching a full-fledged panic, The

locksmith arrived (just in the nick of time to save this poor damsel in distress) and I managed to get to the church as they were closing the door. The first crisis had passed.

Then I went to meet with Stephanie Lee (the minister) (who also happened to be a member of my group 'TGIC') to go over the service. We went over the service and decided that **nothing** was appropriate. That meant we had no service. It was the night before the wedding and we had no service - panic began to set in again. To make matters worse, I had an 8:00 a.m. appointment to get my hair done. That would leave me no time to do my nails, and I couldn't get married without my nails. What could I do? I would do my nails while Stephanie and I worked on the service. It seemed like a good idea until it came time to go home.

I left Stephanie's with the idea of getting

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

home, doing some more work on the service, get my dress out, do some late minute fixup, lay out my clothes for the next day, polish my nails, do all those other little things you have to do in order to get married, and perhaps even getting some sleep. It was not to be.

On the way home my car started to smoke, so I pulled into a gas station. there I was, still in my dirty mechanic's cover-alls, sweaty, tired, and wearing 1 1/2 inch Lee press-on nails (pressed on with super glue). With my hands in my pockets, I asked if anyone could work on my car. They said, "Sorry, everyone has gone home." What to Do? Well I was a mechanic, so I asked, "Do you have some tools I can borrow?" The attendant loaned me the tools, and I fixed my car. As I worked the attendant stood there silently with his mouth open, glancing at my face, then at my nails, then my face, then my nails. I politely said, "Thank you," and drove away, grateful I didn't break a nail. The

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

attendant just stood there with his mouth open.

When I arrived at the hairdressers the next morning I learned they had gotten their appointments confused (which was OK, since I hadn't written the ceremony yet). When I was finally seated, naturally the hairdresser took longer than expected. I only had 90 minutes to get ready for my own wedding. Through some miracle, I actually made it to the church on time.

"D" Day had arrived. There I stood, in the church foyer, half expecting the church to fall down. It didn't. (Something finally went right.) Kevin, my groom, looked splendid in his rented tux, as did his best man Tommy (aka Tamie). Brandon (a female-to-male TS) stood by my side ready to give me away. The music started. Brandon took my arm and we started down the isle. Suddenly I came to the realization of the severity of what I was doing. I was giving myself totally to another person without holding back any part of me. My knees became weak, my palms began to sweat, and I messed up my steps. I felt fear, fear of rejection, of hurt, and of humiliation in front of my friends and my community. Everything was a blur, my mind was racing, my courage was deserting me, and then I saw Kevin. He smiled, and his smile claimed me and suddenly I felt more alive than I had in many years. The person I loved was standing in front of me, smiling, and for the first time in the nine years we had been together was ready to accept me, to accept **all** of me. There is no describing the love and the joy I felt at that moment.

The minister began reading the words Kevin and I had written together, words that were filled with the meaning of our nine years together. We held hands and repeated the words to each other....

(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

"Kevin and Renee want to wish you welcome!

We are gathered here to celebrate the union of two people who wish to share this special day with you.

The Journey they are about to embark

on will last the rest of their time on this planet.

Now the journey will begin with you witnessing the beginning of this journey.

The special bliss that love allows two people to share is indeed rare.

In the short nine years they have been together, the love of of Kevin and Ren'ee has had to conquer more problems than most couples endure in a lifetime. Because of this their love has become very strong, strong enough to carry them through the uncertain times ahead.

They wish to share this union with you, the special people in their lives, the very special people that helped to make the rough times a little smoother.

Please join now with your neighbor, hold hands and wish the two people before you all the love and happiness this world will grant them for the rest of their lives."

While we were saying our vows we realized that for the first time since we started

(Photos: Mariette Pathy Allen)

together we felt a certain peace settle over us, a peace that was genuine and made us stronger. The bonding was now complete.

When the ceremony was finished, it seemed feelings were rushing at me from all over, bombarding me with warm loving sensations. Why? The wedding was intended to be a lark, for fun, a fantasy. Why then did it mean so much to me? Those wonderful feelings, where did they come from? I had spent so many years repressing my feelings, could it be that I was finally free to feel what other people feel all the time? Whatever the answer, it wasn't important. All that was important was the love I felt, and seeing that beautiful beaming face of the person I care for, and feeling the smile I saw come from within.

Our love to you all, and may each of you know the happiness we felt on that day.

- 'Kevin' and 'Ren'ee'

(Photos: Mariette Pathy Allen)

(Photos: Mariette Pathy Allen)

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MIRROR MIRROR, ON THE WALL....

By: Kyelle Blake
In collaboration with
Cheryl B.

"When a man experiences a fantasy of ultimate peace and wholeness, he needs to understand his fantasy as a statement of what he can achieve within himself. But usually he will project his image of paradise on a woman, unconsciously asking her to fulfill it, to bring it into some physical actuality, to deliver it to him."
- Robert A. Johnson, "WE" -

I had been crossdressing in bits and pieces for years. Not until the age of thirty did I finally put it all together at once. My wife was planning to be away for a few days. Living deep in the closet at the time, I couldn't refrain from making a few plans for myself. I purchased my first wig, my first set of heels, some extra makeup to complete my kit, and a few other items that I looked forward to using. I could hardly wait.

But I made myself wait. When the day came, I started with the makeup. Then I kept myself away from all the mirrors in the house until everything else was done. I combed my new wig and put it on away from the mirror. I got completely dressed and spent some time gluing on the nails and painting them. (I wondered if they would ever come off, but I didn't care.) I stepped into the new heels and couldn't believe how different they felt.

Then, and only then, I took a deep breath and headed for the full-length mirror in the bedroom. I wondered how I would look and figured I would look a little different. The days of anticipation and second-guessing had not prepared me for the startling experience before me. I closed my eyes before stepping onto a spot where I knew that when I opened my eyes my mirror image would greet me. With closed eyes I recalled the image that I was used to seeing every morning while shaving. Surely the image I was about to see would have some resemblance to him. There is nothing like setting one's self up for one big surprise.

When I opened my eyes, I couldn't believe that I was looking at myself in the mirror. The male-mirror image had completely disappeared in the transformation. For a moment I thought that some blond bombshell had stepped into my room and even into my mirror and was mimicking my every move. I could not believe that she was me. My knees, already quivering above the unfamiliar heels, totally buckled under my weight. My breath was taken away. As totally unfamiliar as that gal in the mirror was to me, I still started to feel that she was the person I always wanted to be. I knew that I couldn't live without her. I knew without a doubt that I wanted to be and to see her again and again. And I have.

What was this experience all about?

Although I did not know it at the time, this mirror experience was a spiritual experience as well as a physical and emotional experience. Yes, the mirror-image was a physical reflection of my male body done up and over in women's attire. I was also seeing something else in the mirror. I was looking at my own projection of an important part of my own soul. My anima, or at least one manifestation of her, was grinning back at me from the mirror.

Here lies the hitch and the rub.

My anima is a part of my soul and belongs in my soul. She has an important role to play in my life as teacher, guide and inner companion. The anima is the inner feminine side of myself with whom I have lost touch in my up-bringing in the male roles of our society and culture. Jungian psychologists know her as a link between my conscious life (ego) and my unconscious life (which is the anima's world and realm). If I am attentive, I can find her in my dreams and fantasies. Our animae await all of us in our dreams and have much to offer us about ourselves if we will listen. As a TV, my anima also awaits me in the mirror.

The anima is too precious to leave in a mirror or think that in the mirror is the only place to find her. Since her nature is to be soul-stuff, I am also looking in the wrong place when I try to find her in body-stuff-crossdressing. However, being a transvestite does mean that crossdressing is a pretty good place to start the search for her. The challenge is to keep from becoming stuck at the

start. With crossdressing being as much fun as it is, the stuck-start is an easy temptation. But the anima is never going to get back where she belongs (out of the body and back into the soul) if I confine my search for her to the mirror and to my crossdressed self.

Transvestites are not the only males in the world who have misplaced their animae. The difference between us and straight heterosexual male fold is in where we have located our animae. We TV's have located our animae in women whom we have created for ourselves and who remain parts of ourselves; straight guys project their animae on women who have been created by someone else and who remain outside themselves. This is called 'anima projection'. Projecting our animae on other women or on our femme selves (for the TV), we mistakenly believe that the object of our projection is the source of all happiness, peace and contentment in life. The problem is not all that different for TV's than what it is for all those normal folk out there. My anima is soul-stuff, as is theirs. Our soul-stuff belongs in our soul, not in the mirror, nor in the closet, nor in our crossdressed selves, nor in other women. Joy and satisfaction cannot be found outside of ourselves in someone or something (our femme selves). Life's quest for peace and wholeness is a journey inside one's soul.

The parallels between the TV's anima projection onto his femme self and the normal guy's anima projection onto his lover become clear through a reading of Robert A. Johnson's "We, Understanding the Psychology of Romantic Love". In "We", Johnson interprets romance in Jungian terms. His interpretation is focused in a myth about two ancient lovers, Tristan and Iseult. I read this book to learn more about romance and was completely unprepared for all the book had to offer my self-understanding as a transvestite.

Tristan grows up in lands where the feminine has been lost. That loss is symbolized in the deaths of the queen and Tristan's mother and the absence of women. The myth also symbolizes the loss of the feminine from our culture and from the mae soul in our world. In the myth, femininity has been banished to Ireland which is ruled by a sorceress queen. This queen exacts an annual tribute of the masculine dominated lands where Tristan is growing up. Johnson reminds us that eh queen's tribute is a mythological expression of a psychological reality. Whenever an important part of the unconscious is suppressed, a tribute will be exacted of the person.

The tribute that I was paying for years as a TV was my compulsive returning to the closet. Like Tristan, I had learned well the masculine arts of life. I practiced them daily. My feminine side was thoroughly suppressed. In the shroud of secrecy in which I wrapped my femininity I denied an important part of myself to others. In my self-loathing because of this alleged deviant behavior in my life, I denied my femme-side to myself. But she would not be denied and exacted her tribute. No matter how much I tried to purge, no matter how hard I tried to swear off, no matter how much I hated myself for it, the draw of the closet would not go away. In that drawing of me to the crossdressing that I did not want, my femme-side was exacting her tribute to be paid for her suppression. When I refused to pay the price, she found another ransom for me - bouts of deep depression.

In the myth, Tristan falls madly in love with the sorceress queen's daughter, Iseult the Fair. Iseult mythologically portrays the eternal feminine principle within every man, the anima. Johnson's book, being a study of romantic love, analyzes the psychological dynamics of romantic love in terms of the myth. When men fall madly in love, they are projecting their anima image onto their romance partners. In the process, we set ourselves up for the downside of romance. The anima is soul-stuff and we cannot expect to find in another person that which can only be found in our own souls. Although he might think otherwise in the throes of romance, a man cannot find in a woman the feminine side that he is supposed to find and own within himself.

The book, "We", was written to illuminate the romantic relationship between men and women in our culture. A transvestite can read the book and learn much about his relationship with his own femme side. Over and over in reading the book, I recognized Kyelle in Iseult the Fair. Tristan found Iseult on a magical island separated from the rest of life; I found Kyelle in the world of my fantasies and closet. Tristan just can't live without Iseult. Are there many transvestites who can live without their femme-sides? Is not the worst thing that could be done to us is that someone might take our femmes from us? Why else do we guard our femmes with the protection of so much secrecy? Tristan fell in love with Iseult by drinking a magic potion. According to my friends at the Tiffany Club, the magic potion for TV's is New Hampshire water! More seriously, Iseult became the end of all Tristan's dreams when he drank something. Drinking is doing something physical with the body. The magic potion for TV's is crossdressing assisted by a mirror. Through crossdressing, we come to see, feel, know and fall in love with our inner feminine. Like Tristan, once we have seen her, we can never let her go.

Tristan's life came to a tragic end. Eventually he married another Iseult, Iseult of the White Hands. In her homeland he came to have everything; loving family, devoted friends, position, and prestige. In spite of the fact that life was offering him everything, Tristan remained perpetually miserable. As a TV, I am familiar with that perpetual misery every time I start to entertain the notion of how much better all would be if only I could be my femme self all the time. The source of Tristan's predicament was that his heart was elsewhere with Iseult the Fair who me could not have. But Iseult the Fair was never there in the first place for Tristan to have or to own. As his feminine side, she was in his life to be his teacher and guide,

not his property. Never learning that lesson, Tristan died, totally egocentric and totally alone.

The journey to wholeness which Tristan never completed was to find in himself the femininity that he projected onto Iseult the Fair. Likewise, the route to healing for me is to seek inside myself for those things that my fantasy tells me being Kyelle will give to me. (Peace, wholeness, happiness, contentment). Just as Tristan became totally wrapped up in Iseult, it is so easy to become all wrapped up in the dressing and the femme appearance and completely miss what it is all about. Johnson challenges us to value, honor, develop and be in touch with the inner feminine as much as the outer. Our femme selves are outer manifestation of inner realities within us. The maid in the mirror looks back at me and asks me to look for her within.

A RESPONSE TO "MIRROR, MIRROR"

By: Niela Miller, MS, LCSW

As Kyelle's (and her "brother's") therapist and friend, I have been asked to add a few words of response to her wonderful analysis. The only bit I can add has to do with working with the question: How does a man find his soul? My experience with crossdressers is that many of them are quite afraid to attend to their inner lives. They want to relegate all their activity to the physical experience of transforming themselves and stay away from the spiritual/psychological experience of getting to know their inner selves unless they are in absolute torment. And they are right. They should be afraid, or at least in awe of the potential process of exploring their souls, because, once they do, their lives are never the same, their values change, their happiness comes from non-material sources and they can become strangely dissatisfied with the male-dominated values that have been their cultural inheritance: values of appearance, material possessions, ambition, competition, the external world. Once they hear the call of the Soul within, they must answer or die. For most men, it is a difficult, if not impossible, journey to do alone. They must be willing to do something else which compromises their brainwashed condition: ask for help, let themselves be bewildered, admit to feeling stuck or bored or depressed or addicted or any other unpleasant feeling. That takes great courage. The men who **have** come to me for help, work very hard to understand themselves and their relationships, inner and outer. It's not easy. But it opens up amazing doors which lead to new worlds of feeling and possibility. When the Inner Marriage to the anima takes place, a man can become whole in ways he never dreamed of.

(Cartoon: Christine Wilson) (Idea: 'Our Special Joy' Newsletter)

(Explanation: Recently a letter appeared in Ann Landers' column giving "reincarnation and past life regression" as another possible explanation for crossdressing. We've heard it all, from "reincarnation", to "an unresolved Oedipus complex", to "a pre-natal hormonal mix", to "mommy used to dress me up". People burn themselves out trying to come up with fancy explanations, when the fundamental reason most people crossdress is because they ***ENJOY*** *it! No other explanation is necessary.)*

THE MONGOLIAN MOOSE WRESTLER (..and Other Things..) I AM NOT!

By: Catherine Lynn Andrews

I was in my mid-teens when I first found the word 'transvestite' and for a brief moment, I was elated to know I wasn't alone in the world! But my elation turned to horror a moment later as the word 'transvestite' was used to caption a photograph of, what can best be described as, a Mongolian Moose Wrestler wearing eye shadow, a black garter belt, fish-net hose and red spike heels! My immediate reaction was to say to myself, "**I AM NOT** A TRANSVESTITE!" My next encounter came in an article which stated, "...all transvestites were homosexual men who wore women's clothing to solicit sexual advances from other men." This time, confused and very angry, I shouted to myself, "**I AM NOT** A TRANSVESTITE!" Through the remainder of my teens and well into my twenties, I thought I was the ONLY person in the world who wore woman's clothing because I **enjoyed** wearing woman's clothing and being good enough at it to "pass" as a woman in public without question. So then, if I AM NOT A TRANSVESTITE, then, WHAT AM I?

The public library was of no help in this area and I was not in a position where I could ask my teachers, minister, or parents. I can just picture the conversation with my father, "...by the way dad, I look better in mom's dresses than she does and I was wondering if you could tell me why?" One of two things would have happened next: either he would have dropped dead on the spot or he would have taken the position, "...no kid of mine is gonna be a queer!", and I wouldn't remember anything after that. In my early twenties I came across this quotation, "..if it looks like a duck and it walks like a duck and it talks like a duck, it's probably a duck!" I had found my answer...I was a duck, because I knew, I was sure, I was not a transvestite!

Catherine Lynn Andrews was 'born' a fully developed woman 35 years old, 5'7", 175 pounds, and a little too "fully" developed (but that's another issue).

To regress a year or two (OK, more like fifteen), I was, through a stroke of fortune, asked to play the part of a female clerk in order to catch a thief. I was apparently chosen due to my size. With a lot of (unnecessary) help, I was dressed and the thief was caught. On two subsequent

Catherine Lynn Andrews

occasions I was again asked to play the part and, of course, I asked to be excused (Oh... don't throw me in that briar patch again!). I was not yet twenty years old when this occurred and it is still a fresh and fond memory.

Several years ago, the opportunity again presented itself and once more, I was portraying 'Catherine' for a good cause (as it were). It was while working as my favorite person in 1983 that I was introduced to Mary Kay. She had been performing the same service to our mutual employer in another city and it was thought we could broaden our capabilities by working together. We had been approached separately and presented with the idea. We agreed to meet and see what would happen from there. It was during this initial meeting when we had been left alone for several hours that I finally found out what I was. May Kay was discussing some of the problems we might encounter, the most significant of which would be the attitudes of others within our small working group. She said, "It's difficult to pre-determine the reactions of men to a **'crossdresser'**."

"To a what?" I asked.

"To a crossdresser," she said again, and went on to wonder why I didn't know the term. I wasn't listening. I knew! I finally knew I was not a 'transvestite', I WAS A 'CROSSDRESSER!

Since that first meeting, 'Catherine' and Mary Kay have worked together on many occasions. As she said one day coming back from an assignment, "Isn't this great? I mean we actually get paid to do this!" It has been the friendship between us that has helped me to understand myself. I am a good person, I am me, and I will never be anything else. But best of all, I will not be alone, ever again, because my very best friend, the love of my life, the woman I married, is trying her best to understand and support **our** mutual friend, 'Catherine'.

Don't misunderstand, we don't 'dress' for dinner on a regular basis and shopping together at the local mall 'dressed' is a big NO-NO, but she does acknowledge 'Catherine as being a part of me and my life, not as a rival for her position as mother, wife, and lover, but as a mutual friend who needs her support and understanding and who has the insight and understanding to provide the same in return.

Although it has taken many years to finally understand exactly 'who' and 'what' I am, I only regret I did not find out much earlier. My attempt to lead a very macho lifestyle, in a male dominated career field, feeling I had to prove something to myself and others, led to taking stupid chances that should have gotten me killed on several occasions. It was after one of those occasions, the latest, that I spent some time in a Stress Management Class taught by a clinical psychologists. It was there I learned it was alright to be myself. It was alright to be different. It was wrong to try and be something you are not because it was 'expected' by another individual, a group, or society as a whole. It was unreasonable to fear being judged by others and wrong to judge them. Most importantly, it was wrong to be inconsiderate of the needs and feelings of others when you require the same from them.

It was during a one-on-one session with this man that I blurted out the truth and awaited his reaction. He appeared to immediately sense the gravity of the situation and the position I had placed him in and he looked right at me and said, "You're lucky. You have the size and physical features to make it work. a lot of people don't." He paused for a moment, seeming to be putting together the right words, then he continued with the statement that would change my life... "Today, right now, right here, you can stop competing with who you are and who you think others want you to be. Don't compete, co-exist." He let that point sink in for a while then continued, "You've come a long way in the last few days towards understanding yourself and your motivations. You have identified your own problem clearly and you know your choices seem simple. Don't try to be the person someone else thinks you should be, just be yourself, dealing with problems one at a time while being sensitive to the needs of others. Once you learn to understand others, you can better understand yourself and you will be able to blend 'you' and 'you' into one 'accepted' person... accepted by yourself as well as others."

He made sense and I listened and I began the long journey that continues today towards being myself. I have learned to be attentive and sensitive to the needs of my partner, my best friend, my wife. Together we set aside time for our friend 'Catherine'.

The psychologist didn't know the half of it when he said, "You've come a long way...". Being a 'crossdresser' is fantastic when you consider my other choice once, was being a 'duck'! Or, stated more simply, having a 'wiggle' is better than having to 'waddle'! (I'm sorry, I just couldn't resist.)

The TV/TS TALK

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POSITIVE ACTION:

(Tomye Kelley M.A. is a psychotherapist in private practice limited to work with the gender conflicted and the cross-dresser and their significant others. Any correspondence should be addressed to the Gender Identity Clinic, a division of the Institute for Gender Treatment and Research, 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, Colorado 80004. 303-420-9885)

Dear Reader,

Have you ever read '**Black Like Me**' by Sammy Davis Jr.? In that book he talks about going on the stage in Las Vegas and using racial slang-slurs toward himself and toward his race. It was a part of his humor and a part of his act, until his good friend Frank Sinatra called him on it. Sinatra is supposed to have said something like, "Sammy, how would you feel if other people used those same words **toward** you? You'd feel hurt and angry. Well, my friend, you are giving them permission to do just that every time you go on stage and use them toward yourself!"

Mike Vance, in a tape entitled 'Creative Thinking' said, "Every time you allow ignorance or incompetence to go unchallenged you **sanction** ignorance and incompetence!" -- I would add injustice.

Please read over the following article and letter with these two ideas in mind.

- TK

ARTICLE:

MOTIVE, NO MATTER HOW DISTASTEFUL, CAN'T BE IGNORED IN A MURDER STORY

By: Bill Hosokawa
Rocky Mountain News
May 8, 1988

There's nothing very pleasant about homicides. Yet they take place and need to be reported in newspapers. The details of some slayings are more sensational than others, and the more sensational they are, the more likely the details will be reported. The taking of human life holds a morbid fascination. Why else the popularity of murder mysteries in books and television?

Some weeks ago a man wearing women's clothing and a woman's wig was arrested in a Denver apartment in the stabbing death of another man. The death and arrest were reported in this newspaper in an eight-paragraph story. The suspect was described as a male transvestite and police were quoted as saying the attack apparently was the result of jealousy over a homosexual love triangle. The headline reflected accurately what was said in the story: Transvestite arrested in Capitol Hill slaying.

Aleta Turner of Denver took exception. She wrote: "In my opinion the article needed only to report the basic fact that a murder had apparently been committed, and the names and the victim and the suspect. Designating the suspect as a transvestite and the cause a homosexual love triangle was obviously used to draw attention to the article and titillate; (this information was) really not a vital part of the story. I do not know either of the individuals involved, but stereotyped appellations and allegations are unnecessary to good reporting and are a disservice to a segment of the community."

Paul M. James, Denver, wrote a somewhat similar letter. He said: "Surely the terms transvestite and homosexual aren't necessary to good reporting. The continued use of such terms in this context can only lead to undesirable stereotypes. Something you must agree our world could use less of. What was important was that Al Jackson was arrested for suspicion of the murder of Joseph Urban."

Both readers object to the characterization of the suspect and victim as homosexuals. Yet, apparently that was at the rood of the violence that led to homicide. The motive in a homicide is an important part of the story, and simply because it happened to be distasteful or bizarre should not be a reason for ignoring it.

Let's take a hypothetical but unfortunately not an uncommon case. An attorney is slain by his client. Would it be proper to identify the victim as an attorney? Of course. Would it be proper to say a quarrel over the attorney's handling of the client's affairs apparently led to the violence? Again, yes. Then what is the rationale for ignoring the details of another homicide that happened to involve homosexuality rather than a business disagreement? Have such killings become so commonplace that they should be glossed over? I can't buy that.

Jealousy over affection among heterosexuals as well as homosexuals is a not infrequent cause of violence, and if a newspaper is to report a story adequately, pertinent details ought not be left out. Mention of the motivation in a homicide involving homosexualism is no more a "disservice to a segment of the community" than is mention of the motivation in a homicide involving an attorney and his client. Nor is identification in either case a stereotype. What is deplorable is violence, not the reporting of it. I found the reporting of a sorry and distasteful incident factual, not sensational. It may have been uncomfortable to a segment of the community, but no disservice.

LETTER:

Dear Mr. Hosokawa

Because I am a Gender Therapist, specializing in work with the cross-dresser and the gender conflicted and with their significant others, my attention was drawn to your editorial in May 8th's Rocky Mountain News. Although you make a strong and logical argument for your position, there are some facts of which you may not be aware.

First, you state that the man was described by police was a male transvestite. The News printed that "diagnosis" without question. Was he a transvestite, or was he, perhaps, a transsexual? The police are not trained diagnosticians. It requires much more than observing a male in woman's clothing to make such a diagnosis. To print a layman's diagnosis as fact is without excuse. Actually, the only factual statement that either the police or the News could make was that the accused was a male and he was dressed in woman's clothing.

If they had found the accused drunk, would the police and the News have been accurate in describing him as "an alcoholic"?

Second, you state that the killing was a "...result of jealousy over a homosexual love triangle...". You seem to conclude that this was true. Maybe it was, maybe it was not. In all events, until newspapers begin to report fights and murders between males and females as a "...result of jealousy over a **heterosexual** love triangle..." we do not have fair and responsible journalism. One segment of the population is being held up to public exposure while another section of the population is enjoying the shroud of privacy that we all should have.

Third, you define the headline "Transvestite arrested in Capitol Hill slaying" as an appropriate reflection of the facts. An appropriate reflection of the facts would have been a headline that read, "Man arrested in Capitol Hill slaying" just as some of your readers suggested. This is exactly the kind of journalism that the black community had to fight before they stopped headlines that read, "Black arrested in Capitol Hill slaying". The blacks fought such prejudicial sensationalizing and stereotyping, and they eventually won!

Now the only thing that the newspapers can print when one or both of those involved is black is, "Man arrested in Capitol Hill slaying". The fact that the newspapers are now prevented from using the first labeling headline, no matter how true it might be, does not prevent the story from covering all of the pertinent facts. It only forbids prejudicial and bias labeling. That is all that I request for this population.

Fourth, even had the police been capable of making a psychological diagnosis, since when do we identify individuals in print, in headlines, by their illnesses? Transvestism is not a whim or a hobby as many uninformed people believe. Transvestism and transsexualism do have some elements in common, one being that they are both obsessive compulsive behaviors over which the victims have little or no control. The etiology, medical research indicates, lies in prenatal hormonal basis, supported and reinforced by frequently unfortunate and sometimes tragic childhoods. Child abuse of every conceivable form are common in the histories of these victims.

Would you see it as appropriate (regardless of how accurate) to headline a story "Heartattacker arrested in..." or "Diabetic..."? The Vietnam Vet fought this same battle and like the blacks, he, too, won after much journalistic grief.

Fifth, I believe you misinterpreted the positions of both the readers who wrote to you. It appears that you assumed that the writers shared your own prejudice in this matter and saw the "important part of the story...to be distasteful or bizarre". I don't think that this was what your readers were saying. I think they were trying to say to you that they saw the **News' handling of the story** as distasteful and bizarre.

Sixth, let's take a look at your hypothetical case in which you equate the accused's **illness** with the **occupation** of another man, in your example, an attorney. In headlining one man's illness, the News holds him up to public exposure of a private condition. In headlining another man's occupation, he suffers no exposure, only public conformation of a publicly known fact. Occupations have

never equated with illnesses.

It is certainly true, "...jealousy over affection among heterosexuals as well as homosexuals is not infrequent cause of violence, and if a newspaper is to report a story adequately, pertinent details ought not be left out..." and if a newspaper is to report a story accurately and responsibly, pertinent details should be dealt with in exactly the same manner regardless of whether it is the homosexual population or the heterosexual population -- if labels are to be used, they should be used in every case.

Further, what is deplorable is violence, and a further deplorable facet of it is that the newspapers are free to print sensational headlines at the expense of a small segment of the population for the amusement, the entertainment and the titillation of a larger population. And it sells papers.

As you other reader-writer said on an entirely different subject (courtesy titles) "...If we treat all human beings equally in the written reports of our day-to-day lives, perhaps that will help us eventually to think of people as equal."

Sincerely,
Tomye Kelley M.A.

MISC.

(A song, of sorts, sung to, **"Love Me Tender"**.)

ODE TO STANLEY
By Sherry

Look what Biber's done to me,
Gone the evidence that I was he.
I used to be an ugly brute,
but now at least my bottom's cute!

He stopped for good that awful flow
of testosterone from down below.
That stuff that roughens cheek and limb
and changed my body into a him.

He neatly nipped the culprits off
and dumped them in the garbage trough.
And then he turned me outside in,
and made labia from scrotal skin.

I no longer have what I had
thanks to the miracle man from Trinidad.
With a few deft passes of his knife
In two short hours he changed my life

A cheerful, skilled surgeon he
who sets cross gendered people free.
Thank you stanley for what you've done.
With your help, at last, I'm one.

(Cartoon from "Newtral Corner' Newsletter March, 1988)

POSITIVE ACTION:

MARIETTE PATHY ALLEN
Photography
241 East 17th St
New York, NY 10003
(212) 460-5880

Dear Members of the Gender Community:

It has been almost three months since the **New York Post** attacked our community. Now that the shock has begun to recede, I think we'll see that:

(1) The Post will not remember this as their finest hour.

(2) That this episode may serve to strengthen the community.

Let me tell you what has happened since March 16th. On that day I hired the first lawyer that was suggested to me because I felt that time was critical, and I was leaving for California the next day. This individual, knowledgeable and expensive, spoke lawyer-ese, (not my language) and passionately wanted to sue the Post; his reputation is based on "going for the jugular". My case, however, was not as simple as it looked. Copyright infringement was questionable as this material was considered "news" even though it was the Post itself that created the news. Apparently, if something is news, it may be printed against the will of anyone involved. That left the willful destruction of a work of art and defamation of character as the two issues upon which to base a case. Since my photographs were cropped, their integrity as works of art was destroyed. The law created to prevent this kind of harm to artists was legislated in 1983 and had never been tested. Defamation of character would have required proof that my personal life had been severely damaged by this attack. In truth, because of everyone's lack of respect for the Post, my professional status was hardly touched.

Upon my return from California, I consulted several other lawyers who had more inside information and more professional detachment. As one lawyer explained it, the Post knew they were wrong but, because they had a new owner, and therefore, a new legal department, the legal department was itching for a fight to prove their worth. "This will go on for the next ten years, and you could wind up going to the Supreme Court. I can't advise you strongly enough to settle out of court if you can." The other lawyer told me that the Post would have a field day with my deposition, and that they, most likely, would insist upon depositions from some of the people whose pictures they published. That was the final straw! I asked my lawyer to settle out of court, and although he was disappointed, I was tremendously relieved, and even consider it a small victory that the Post paid me enough to cover my legal expenses.

Mariette Pathy Allen
Staff Photographer: Fantasia Fair,
IFGE Coming Together Convention

While I was waging my personal battle, there was good news in the art world: the New York State Council on the Arts, chaired by Kitty Carlisle Hart, defended its grant awards eloquently and with great vigor. Other arts groups, and the gay and lesbian community came to the support of the council, and the hearings instigated by the Post turned into a total defeat for the Post.

Meanwhile, TIGER has been collecting money in support of my case. I am happy that I will not need this money, and, now, we have a fund available for the next legal hassle that occurs within this community. This fund is something that was needed in the past, and is likely to become even more important as the community gains strength and takes further steps toward acceptance and respect.

I would like to thank the many people who supported me, who gave me moments of wisdom and calm when I really needed it, the people who wrote letters to the Post and the new York State Council on the Arts, and sent donations to TIGER. I would like to thank Ginny Knuth of ETVC in particular, and TIGER for taking on the tasks of informing you and for creating the legal defense fund.

Warmly,
Mariette Pathy Allen

Mariette presenting her 'Opening The Shutters' Workshop at IFGE's 'Coming Together' '88

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SY ROGERS AND THE 700 CLUB: A RESPONSE

By: Sr. Mary Elizabeth, n/SSE

Recently a friend showed me a portion of an interview with Sy Rogers, about his "transsexual" experience, that took place on the 700 Club. While I did not see the entire interview, what I did see prompts me to respond.

Mr. Rogers is very much on point when he speaks of God's desire for us -- i.e. "God wants our lives to revolve around Him. He wants to be number one in our hearts, over our own wants and desires."

We accept the love God offers by making an act of faith and flinging oneself on His mercy, for it is repentance and faith in Jesus Christ that shall save us, not deeds of the law. The real son of Abraham is not a man racially descended from Him but one who, no matter his race, makes the same surrender to faith of God.

The catch-22, and I believe Mr. Rogers addressed it very well, are the demands placed on us following our surrender to God; a new standard of moral purity, a new kindness, a new service, a new forgiveness, as He invites us into knowledge and receives us into mystery. Our response requires much courage, trust, and commitment to accept newly perceived truths no matter what the cost.

Hannah Hurnard perhaps says it best. "As we surrender ourselves to Him, we -- as Christians -- learn, in theory at least, that there are no second causes, that even the most unjust and cruel things, as well as all seemingly pointless and undeserved sufferings, have been permitted by God as a glorious opportunity for us to react to them in such a way that our Lord and Savior is able to produce in us, little by little, His own lovely character. To learn this requires us to accept, day by day, the actual conditions and tests permitted by Him, by a continually repeated laying down of our own will and acceptance of His will."

"Every acceptance of His will becomes an altar of sacrifice, and every such surrender and abandonment of ourselves to His will is a means of furthering us to the High Places to which He desires to bring every one of us." He has made us for Himself, so that He can exist through us.

Sr Mary Elizabeth with Christine Jorgensen
IFGE 'Coming Together' Convention 1988

His gift to us was life. Our gift to him is making the most of that life, of His gift.

On the other hand, I believe Mr. Rogers may have erred in part when he attempted to address the biological and psychosocial issues related to transsexualism and to describe the transsexual as a "man made woman," for we are, in fact, all "man made men, or man made women,"

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*(** Sr Mary Elizabeth is the Executive Director of J2CP Information Services, and Director of Administratiive Services, Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County, Inc., and a novice member of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary.)*

insofar as our assigned birth sex is the result of nothing more than a physician's brief glance at our genitals at birth.

Zoological, as well as cross cultural studies have shown that gender identification goes far beyond the reproductive function. In fact, our identity as male or female is the end product of the interaction between many moral, biological and social variables.

Robert Oliver, M.D. pointed out in 1972 that "moral sanctioning by the medieval church exalted celibacy and virginity, and eked out cruel penalties to enforce its taboos. Rules of procreativity evolved during this time period about the nature of man and woman, as well as the basic principle that gonadal sex only can serve as a valid criterion in determining gender identity."

Moral aspects of gender identity came into play because of the radical remedies suggested for treating transsexuals -- i.e. hormonal and surgical sex reassignment. The threat to us comes, as Sister Joanne Madigan, SJ, points out when ". . . sex, sexuality, and the idea of maleness and femaleness become unintelligible, once they are divorced from the idea of reproduction."

The problem for society comes in defining proper or true sex. Father Curren addressed this problem in an early letter to a "transsexual" -- i.e. "The basic problem from the moral and ethical viewpoint is the question of determining the proper sex of the individual."

Our confusion in differentiating proper or true sex is based on several factors. First, sex can be defined by several biological -- i.e. chromosomes, gonads, external genitalia, internal reproductive organs other than gonads, hormones, and secondary sex characteristics -- and sociological -- i.e. sex of rearing and assumed sex -- criteria.

Gender assignment based on all sex determining criteria being in accord would be ludicrous. As Oliver points out, "[a] hermaphrodite's identity would be ambiguous and Joan of Arc would be classified as a transvestite. Likewise, a simple majority of agreeing factors would be grossly inaccurate, since this would require each factor to have equal significance -- e.g. the chromosome test would place the person raised, characterized, and genitalized as a male in a classification of a female (pseudohermaphrodite)."

Second, sex and gender have come to mean the same thing. Charles Prince has argued, however, that sex and gender are not the same thing. He points out that "[we] are born into a society that is highly polarized and highly stereotyped, not only into male and female, but into man and woman. Man and male, female and woman are considered synonymous pairs of words for the same thing. They are inseparable. Bit it is not so. Sex and gender are not the same thing." Money and Hampson have shown this their studies of pseudohermaphrodites, in that these children tend to grow up in their assigned sex rather than their genetic sex.

Third, is the controversy that surrounds the term 'transsexual'. Meyer has pointed out that the issues become "even more confused because the term 'transsexualism' has come to encompass a variety of conditions that under other circumstances might be labelled extremely effeminate homosexuality, transvestism (particularly conscience-ridden transvestism), schizoid or borderline personality disorder, polymorphous perverse psychopathy, as well as individuals who apparently have manifested lifelong cross gender drives. The point is that the label 'transsexual' has come to cover such a 'multitude of sins' that all one knows when the term appears in the literature is that the patient has presented requesting sex reassignment surgery and labelled himself as transsexual, and the physician has accepted that self diagnosis."

If we can't separate, as well as define, sex and gender, how can we differentiate transsexualism from the multitude of psychopathologies that exist in our complex society? And, if trained and highly educated medical and scientific personnel cannot agree on how to define sex and gender, how can we expect laypersons such as Mr. Rogers or the show's host to define them?

I have spent the past 13 years working with pseudo-transsexuals and transsexuals. I have met very few transsexuals. I have met thousands of very confused, emotionally disabled pseudo-transsexuals, each seeking to alleviate their pain and suffering through self-diagnosis and the fantasy that they are a woman trapped in a man's body. These individuals reject psychotherapy, seeing their problem as physical and the solution as surgical, not psychiatric.

These same individuals often shop for a therapist that will tell them what they want to hear. They seek out self-diagnosed pseudo-transsexuals, will make them "queen for a day," confirming their self-diagnosis and overlooking the sever psychopathology that often accompanies the self-diagnosed individual.

Who is to blame? I believe we are to blame, for we leave the gender-conflicted individual few, if any, options. We condemn and reject them, making them uncomfortable and unwelcome in God's house. We condemn and reject the professionals attempting to treat them. A 1984 letter of Mr. Rogers, for example, reaches out in love, then condemns and rejects -- i.e. "Please don't feel you need to write back a lengthy rebuttal and justification." Dialogue is necessary if we are to help them resolve their conflict and win them to Jesus. Silence and the absence of any open discussion only allows prejudice and unfounded fears to flourish, often leading to serious persecution and injustices, rather than healing.

I believe that a great duty falls upon us all. We are called to be bearers of God's forgiveness, to be the instrument of His love, to be active in compassion. God moves in His own mysterious ways, but a great deal of the time He moves through us. And it is because we are not there that so many do not believe in God's love.

It is time we -- the Church -- individually and corporately, publicly and privately, sit down with these people, and the professionals attempting to treat them, and talk in an atmosphere characterized by enlightenment and compassion, not ignorance and invectives.

May the Lord Jesus hold each of you in the palm of His hand, and give you the grace to be faithful, joyful, and at peace.

THE WASHROOM PROBLEM

By: Julia Matheson

For most people, it seems, the act of relieving oneself of excess food and drink is the most private function of all. Even within families, the bathroom door is usually closed. It is even more private than sex, in that group sex is known to happen. I have never heard of group sessions in urinating or defecating.

Even most male washrooms have cubicles, and rightly or otherwise, women have been conditioned to be definitely modest, in the matter of excretory functions.

Possibly women astronauts would have been in space earlier had it not been for that vital necessity to provide them with separate, and private, bathroom facilities.

Consider then what are likely to be the reactions of a woman who "reads" a crossdresser in the women's washroom. Shock at the unexpected will be the first, probably followed by disgust. You and I know what a glorious thing it is for us to wear women's clothes; but unfortunately, many women are as yet unenlightened in this respect. Next, I imagine, might come a strong resentment at the invasion of her exceedingly private territory, and she could hardly avoid wondering why this strange man is there. Voyeurism, I think, would be the most likely conclusion she would come to, which is going to increase her sense of outrage.

But that's not all. The following is taken verbatim from a notice recently posted in a community college:

"ALERT"

On April 6, 1987, at 12:40 PM, a woman coming out of the shower in the women's changing room near the gym was confronted and intimidated by a man.

Women should be aware that incidents such as this have happened before on this campus. PLEASE WATCH OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER."

The fact that the intruder may be dressed as a woman doesn't stop him from being possibly dangerous in the eyes of the woman whom he confronts, even though he is probably completely innocent.

She might run, screaming, from the washroom. She might give you her knee between the legs. Worse still, she might leave quietly and phone the police, warning them that a "Peeping Tom" has invaded her privacy, so that when you're back at your table in the restaurant, the gentlemen in blue arrive to investigate. Worse of all, if the female whom you surprise happens to be a child, you may be confronted with an infuriated father, and no calling on your civil rights is likely to protect you from his anger.

If you can pass perfectly, under close scrutiny, or if you're using facilities that can be used only by one person at a time, none of this applies. But if you can't, and the woman reacts unfavorably, you can hardly blame her.

Everyone has a right to their privacy, and I can't think of a more private place than a ladies' washroom. You'll find me drinking little while out in public, and waiting until I get home, or to the hotel room to deal with my bodily comfort.

(Edited from "The Crossdresser's Bureau", c/o G. Wright, Box 172, Gurnee, IL 60031 Six issues $6.00, twelve issues $10.00)

LEADERSHIP, CHRYSLER, and LEE IACOCCA

By: Gloria Wright

As editor of The Crossdresser's Bureau newsletter, I am privileged to have the opportunity to exchange newsletters with the leaders and editors of newsletters of crossdressing groups from around the country. I consider that to be an asset that gives me insight into what various groups are feeling and writing about and I'm able to share this information with my readership. However, in my readings I've noticed what I consider to be a disturbing trend in many writings, and also in conversations with many people in leadership positions.

Over the years and especially in recent months, I've read over and over again how leaders are disappointed in the response of their "followers" to their various programs. This disappointment is usually centered around several issues:

1. Lack of support for group programs, such as outings to vendors and shops.

2. Lack of large attendance at meetings.

3. Lack of submittal of articles for newsletters.

4. Lack of financial support of group sponsored events or publications.

5. Lack of members willing to take leadership positions within the organizations.

A large portion of the newsletters I've read contain these types of complaints, and I've recently been involved in several "vigorous discussions" about these topics.

I'm going to get on my often-used soapbox for just a short time about this subject, in the hope of shedding a little more light, and maybe giving a little bit different perspective on something that has distressed many in leadership positions, and has caused not just a few to throw up their hands and just give up.

Gloria Wright, Editor
"Crossdresser's Bureau"

First of all, leaders are very special people, and we owe them a great debt of gratitude. They are willing to sacrifice their time and put their egos on the line, to run an organization in whatever form. Usually there are no financial rewards for doing this, and often these people actually lose money in the process. there are rewards of leadership, such as prestige, notoriety, and self-satisfaction, and leaders do reap these rewards.

Sometimes, however, these leaders lose sight of the fact that there are leaders, and there are followers. Not everyone has the ability or the inclination to lead. Therefore, it is the responsibility of those who head organizations to give direction and guidance to the others. Those in leadership positions will always have to work harder, take more risks, get more criticism, have more sacrifices than the rest, but that comes with the territory. Because there are also those rewards of a job well done, and the respect from those for whom the job was done.

It is the responsibility of the leadership to provide programs that their memberships will rally around. If programs are provided that people want, they will be there. It's not easy to develop these programs, but no one said the job would be easy.

It is also the responsibility of those in command to develop leaders to come after them, so that the organization has continuity. Leaders don't always just spring up; they sometimes have to be cultivated.

Being a newsletter editor myself, a complaint I'm particularly sensitive to is that no one ever writes articles for submittal for the newsletters. Let me first say that not everyone in this world is a Hemingway (who incidentally was dressed as a girl for much of his childhood). Also, I'm writing this article at 5:30 AM in my home. Not everyone has the inclination, or an understanding spouse to allow them to do this. In spite of that, over the two years that I've published The Crossdresser's Bureau, I've received so many articles from others that I'm embarrassed to say that I haven't been able to include them all. I do feel that I'm blessed with an active readership; but I also hope that the fact that I genuinely appreciate their assistance and am willing to put my thanks in writing, plays a part.

The final suggestion is that the leadership of any organization must create a climate where people want to assist and have a vehicle that assists them in giving that help. You can't give enough praise for the help that you receive.

It's true that an organization is only as good as its membership; but remember that the leadership has a hand in attracting that membership. Make sure that your leadership style attracts good members.

When Lee Iacocca took over Chrysler, not many people gave him much hope for turning that situation around. Remember back to when Chrysler had to get that Government loan just to survive. Remember when their only hope was the lackluster "K" car. And remember the price of the stock that you and I should have bought, in retrospect?

There wasn't a major change in those that made up that organization, but a change in leadership. He caused sweeping changes to be made (even the idea of his receiving only $1.00 in wages per year until things got turned around) that caused Chrysler to again be a major force in the automobile world. Contrast that with the leadership at American Motors, which was recently purchased by Chrysler (and why didn't we buy that stock?). They continued to pin their hopes on the Alliance!?!

Those willing to do the sometimes thankless job of heading an organization are special people. But being special means that you have skills and drive that not everyone has. Let's not try to fit people into shoes that are not right for them. Use your skills to get the best for the people you represent. And let's not forget that you are there to serve them, and not the other way around.

"JoAnne goes to college."

A perceptive format - illustrating how to promote positive attitudes towards crossdressing without creating stressful resistance in the process.

* Side one = Talk given to Univ. of Wisc. Human Sexuality Class.
* Side two = " Going into your closet, your self concept."

Send $8.00 for cassette, copy of text & questionnaire format to:

JOANNE
P.O. Box 5504
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

(Janice Van Cleve, of the Emerald City support group in Seattle, was appointed to chair IFGE's Membership Committee. One of her committee's jobs was to draft a new brochure for IFGE. Putting together IFGE's brochure was one thing, but understanding what IFGE was about was something entirely different. Janice, like virtually everyone, was confused. The following letter was her attempt to help her committee become "unconfused". We felt that Janice did such a super job in trying figure things out that her letter should be shared with the entire Tapestry readership. -- MSL)

WHAT IS IFGE?

TO: IFGE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

FROM: JANICE VAN CLEVE, CHAIRMAN

It's wonderful! It's fascinating! It's confusing! It's life! Just look at the stew we have bubbling! There's the entangled mess of IFGE, Tapestry, Tiffany, something called NACD and the IRS. There are magazine subscribers who think they are voting members (of what, heaven only knows!). There are Tiffany Club members who think they are magazine subscribers. There are committees and departments that cross thread each other in more bizarre arrays than even the two or three "organization" charts (I use the term very loosely) would suggest. And, there are officers switching titles faster than a female impersonator changes costumes on a busy night. Not to mention the myriad population of TVs, TSs, TGs, CDs, GGs, SOs, M-Fs, F-Ms, IDNs (I Don't Knows), SIBs (Somewhere In Betweens), DQs, Gays, FIs, and helping professionals who are either serving or being served by the community via this tangle.

On June 7th I sent you all a rough draft of a new brochure for IFGE. It was a composite of your contributions, portions of the constitution, excerpts from Tapestry and the old IFGE brochure. Thanks to you all for your inputs. In evaluating your responses I came to the conclusion that everybody seems to have a different opinion of what IFGE is and who should be a member. Some look to IFGE to lead, others look to IFGE to coordinate or publicize, while others ask "Why IFGE at all?" Confusing, yes! Unexpected, no!

The ones that ask, "Why IFGE at all?" are, in my opinion, on the right track. Organizations exist for a purpose. When they accomplish that purpose, or they fail to make steady progress toward that purpose, their continued existence is an anachronism, and they should be allowed to die! Just what is the purpose of IFGE? In summary (from the constitution):

> Section I "promote charitable and educational ends within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code."
>
> Section II "provide educational information on the subjects of crossdressing and transsexualism."
>
> Section III "provide assistance to crossdressers and transsexuals... to more fully understand and accept their lifestyle."
>
> Section IV "any other activity that which may be lawfully carried on by a non-profit corporation organized under Mass. Gen. laws."

Sections I and IV are tax issues rather than organizational purposes. They can b e applied equally to thousands of other organizations, honest, crooked or otherwise throughout the country. Sections II and III are either unachievable from a small office in Massachusetts or are in direct competition with other transgender organizations across the country who are every bit as professional and capable as IFGE could ever hope to be. Therefore, the combined inputs from all sources point to dreams of what each source hopes IFGE will become rather that what it's chartered to be under its own constitution.

So, what does all this have to do with the membership committee or the IFGE brochure? Everything! Without a unity of purpose we simply cannot present IFGE in a brochure, nor can we identify membership.

Fortunately, Merissa came to the rescue in her letter to me dated

6/22/88, not by anything she said in the letter, but more by the train of thought behind it. The key is the word "Foundation". I have struggled with this word in our title for a very long time. Foundations are solid, wealthy benefactors, which serve the good name of their parent corporations. Foundations like Carnegie, Ford, and Burlington Northern support the arts or science or other humanistic and progressive causes. IFGE is hardly solid, it's in the red, and it's making noises like a parent corporation itself instead of a benevolent servant. I saw, (and still see), the real strength of the transgender community in the local organizations and I looked to IFGE as the International Federation for Gender Education, ruled by a board that answered to the affiliated chapters. I did not see IFGE as a foundation.

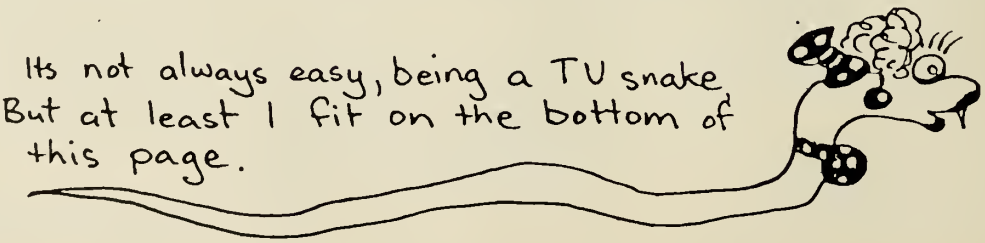
In Merissa's letter of 6/22/88 she spoke of "Supporting Members" and "Life Members". WAAAIT A MINUTE! This is 180 degrees away from a "Federation"! Finally it came to me - yes, IFGE is indeed a foundation. It's not solid but we can solve that. It's real wealth is in the synergism it's able to generate through working together and sharing together. Just think of the wealth of energy released when readers throughout the world get their issue of Tapestry! The affirmation of reading quality material about one's own people is wealth enough, not to mention the networking, the convention, the communication, etc. As for making noises like a parent, a few people need to be retrained, and hopefully, that too will come in time.

Seeing IFGE as a foundation helped make sense out of the first four sections of the constitution: that is what most foundation purposes look like. The major lacking factor is defining the relationship of the foundation to the local transgender organizations. This is the key! Resolving this point resolves the questions of membership, money, territory, services, etc. The other key is untangling IFGE completely from its roots, i.e. the Tiffany Club, NACD, etc.

So, IFGE is a foundation. It provides educational resources. These resources include a quarterly journal, an annual convention, a research library, an archives, a publishing service, a speakers bureau, a contact list of local organizations and various informational materials. The focus of IFGE's resources is transgender issues, i.e. issues involved with transvestism and transsexuality. IFGE provides these resources to anyone who asks for them, whether or not they are in any way associated with IFGE or the issues, either free or for a nominal "point-of-sale" charge. IFGE maintains a small administrative staff at Waltham, Mass. to conduct daily business. Extraordinary tasks such as journal distribution and convention marketing are normally contracted out. Both the administrative and contract staff report to the board of directors elected at the annual convention. The effectiveness of IFGE, and the lion's share of the work depends entirely upon voluntary help from the transgender organizations across the country and other groups involved with transgender issues. These groups provide the professionals, leaders, and organizers to staff IFGE, the board of directors, the committees, and all other decision making bodies within IFGE to accomplish their purposes.

IFGE's services are open to all: universities, gender clinics, law and government, researchers and therapists, significant others and individual transvestites and transsexuals without discrimination. However, IFGE realizes its special dependence on the local organizations for support, outreach, and volunteers to staff its many activities. Only the local organizations can provide the immediate personal contact, the physical support, the social activities, the service networks for individual transvestites, transsexuals and their significant others in the community. IFGE **cannot and will not attempt to compete with the local organizations** or offer services that can be more effectively and more economically provided by the local groups. Rather, the services offered by IFGE are more national in scope. It is the goal of IFGE to bring together the talents and energies of individuals involved with transgender issues, particularly volunteers from local organizations to work together to accomplish IFGE's national educational objectives.

The relationship is "Symbiotic Synergism", different groups and individuals working together for the benefit of all. IFGE provides services of a national scope, while the local groups provide services to their immediate communities and, hopefully, volunteers to staff IFGE functions and programs. Organizationally, the local groups are not chapters of IFGE and are not subject to IFGE's constitution, decisions or scrutiny, nor do they pay any fees or dues to IFGE. IFGE in turn answers only to its own board of directors, who, however, are most likely leaders in their own local groups. This mutual independence avoids bureaucratic bottlenecks and IRS intervention. IFGE also stays out of politics to avoid abridgement of its non-profit status.



(Cartoon: Seahorse Victoria Newsletter, SHV, Box 2337V, Melborne, 3001 AUS)

COMING INTO THE WORLD

By: Vivian Vixen

Last spring I was finally able to give myself the gift of the trip to Provincetown. Seven beautiful days of freedom to be the person I am. A whole week to see if the world would really come to a screeching halt if I dressed up and walked down the street. The world didn't end, and I learned about freedom. Freedom is being treated like a human being independent of the apparent outrageousness of one's behavior. Freedom is being able to state and defend one's views no matter whether they be fascist, Communist, or something in between. Freedom is being treated with respect while dressed to party and made-up to beat the band even though it is only 10:00 AM and the party is breakfast in a small eatery. Freedom is being harassed by the local teenagers because in Provincetown, it doesn't make any difference. In Provincetown, one is free to be one's self: to be read, to pass, to be flattered, to be criticized, even to be abused by the young. The positive events are supportive and vivifying. The negative ones roll off one's back. In Provincetown one is free to live whatever life is appropriate to who and to what one is.

All well and good. But Provincetown, MA is a special case. It is not what you or I call home. It is not the world we live in. It is not where I work, or where my friends and family live. Now it's time to bring the lesson of Provincetown back. It is time for friends and relatives to meet my sister. Time for them to discover that their knowledge of me is incomplete. Time for them to fully know the person they now know only in part.

At first the vision was bigger than life, a little reckless, and a little fun: to shop dressed in stores where I have only gone as my brother, to introduce my sister to people who knew of her but had never met her, perhaps to go to my place of employment and shop - they would never know who I was, would they? But reality cooled my ambition, steadied my nerve, and tempered my resolve.

The desire was simple: to recreate the Provincetown experience and to integrate it into my life. I wanted to be myself in the world I live in, not just in some Never-Never Land at the tip of Cape Cod. Discussion with my wife established the only ground rule: Don't get too close to home. Discussion with Tiffany established the possibility of an extended stay. Now the parameters were set. I would be far enough away, but not too far; close enough to connect, but not too close. All I had to do now was to arrange the vacation time, pack my bags, and do it.

The two weeks at Tiffany included a long list of maiden voyages, but the list of confirmations is just as long and very strengthening. It began gently, unobtrusively. There was the usual Saturday night crowd at the Tiffany Club my first day there. It was nice to get up and dress on Sunday. But on Monday, I went and had lunch dressed with a friend who knew I dressed, but had never seen me so. It was one of the strongest experiences of my life. We both knew that we now both knew. That night, dressed as my brother, I stopped in a make-up shop. The salesperson asked if the foundation I wanted was for me. When I said "Yes", she asked me to sit down and spent the next 45 minutes selecting appropriate cosmetics for me and showing me how to use them. Her willingness to countenance that the cosmetics were for me, that I could not only put on women's clothes, but also put on make-up as well, and that it was no big deal was incredibly confirming. The experiment was up and running.

Vivian put on her skirt and blouse, her wig and make-up, earrings and a bracelet, and went out into the world. She found that some people read her, but most people didn't. Some sales people were caught off-guard by her, but most of them weren't. Of greatest import was the number of friends who met her for lunch or for dinner, each of whom said, "Yes, I see." Now I know what I didn't know before. Now I know the person I thought I knew. Now I understand. For her last night out, Vivian went to dinner with her sister-in-law. Her comment to Vivian was how good, how vital to finally see the person she had only know by parts. "I've never seen you be yourself before. I've never seen you manifest your power before. It's nice to finally see you together."

The support of all the people I met was confirming, from the folks walking the other way in the shopping malls who didn't bat an eye to the friends who kept saying over and over again, "Yes, yes, yes." Now it's time for another reality. I will put the shirt and pants on Monday and go back to work. But in my heart Vivian knows she is a fundamental part of who I am, and so do others. She will be back to see her friends, to eat and to celebrate with them, to meet others, and to live out her life with me.

LARRY / LINDA - OUR STORY

By: Linda Walker

COVER GIRL?

Even in my wildest fantasies I never thought I would be a "COVER GIRL". The Publisher of the Tapestry had asked me last Fall if she could use one of Mariette Allen's pictures of 'Linda' for the next Tapestry cover. I agreed, but, I guess I really thought she was just being nice. Then I walked into our semi-respectable downtown news stand and saw myself on the cover of one of the magazines. It was so unnerving it temporarily wiped out the fear of being recognized. It had actually crossed my mind, but only for a split second, to say to the guy at the counter, "That's me on the cover," but better sense prevailed.

That picture was taken in one of the hotels in Provincetown the year that I won the 'Miss Congeniality' award during Fantasia Fair. I was the registrar for the Fair, and the award could not have been a bigger surprise (but that's another story).

I'm 48, married 15 years, 2 children, a boy and a girl. No, neither knows. My wife is very supportive but, that has not always been the case. I didn't tell her before we were married. I thought that because "IT" was the reason my first marriage broke up and I hadn't been driven to dress for two years that I was "cured" and "IT" wouldn't come back, and if "IT" did I could handle it and keep it suppressed.

Linda Walker
Cover Girl, Issue #51

MY FIRST-TIME

Unlike most CD's, I didn't start crossdressing until I was 20 years old. In my youth I engaged in all the macho activities that I understand were common to other heterosexual crossdressers: boxing, football, car racing, hunting. I no longer hunt, but I still have my antique gun collection. I distinctly remember being involved in playing war with other boys using BB guns. I was also in sexual pursuit of every female that caught my eye and some that didn't. I suspect this attempt to seduce every female that I could was driven by my subconscious desire to keep Linda as far back in the shadows of my mind as I could and out of the way.

My first wife dressed me in women's clothes from the skin out, panties, bra, the whole nine yards for a Halloween party in 1960. We had discussed doing it about two weeks before the party. I remember that I objected very little. I wore her red plaid skirt and one of her larger girl friend's white nylon blouses. The garter belt and nylons came from another girl friend as did the white high

heels. The wig was provided by one of the neighbors. My wife and the neighbor spent at least a half hour combing and styling it on my head after I had gotten dressed and applied the cosmetics. I was always good at art and had a basic understanding of the purposes of shadow and color. I always had fir skin and was light complected. My youth combined with being slim enabled me to appear passable. After dressing and making up and having the wig styled I finally got to look at myself in a full length mirror. I couldn't believe that was me. I actually got dizzy. It was as if I had been drinking. When my sister-in-law and her husband came to pick us up and drive us to the party, neither one recognized me immediately and after they did her sister wouldn't stop complimenting me on how great I looked and how well the clothes fit. Her husband appeared to be more embarrassed than anything else. I had a fantastically good time. I was practically the center of attention. Some of the guys that didn't know were lighting my cigarettes, buying me drinks and asking me to dance. Of course after I spoke they knew I was not what I appeared to be. The women appeared fascinated and asked all kinds of questions about who made me up (I did), how long did it take (3 hours) and where did the clothes come from (my wife and her sisters and friends). I remember from time to time seeing the red nailed fingers moving on the ends of my hands and looking down to seeing my nylon clad legs sticking out of a plaid skirt. I also remember the sensuous feeling of the nylons when I crossed my legs and the smooth silky feeling on my rear end when I moved in my seat and the panties moved across the fabric of the slip I was wearing. The whole experience was erotic beyond belief.

I really didn't want that night to end. The transvestite tendency must have been there all along, I was just too engrossed with masculine pursuits to allow it to catch up with me. Aft that night I found myself unable to think about little in my spare time besides dressing in women's clothes. It became an obsession that I had to deal with every day. For too many years I walked across the pit of hell bothered by guilt and confusion. I dressed in my wife's clothes when she was out of the house and I was terrified of being found out. The instances of deceit and excuses for dressing were numerous. Halloween was always a time of tension. Eventually, in 1968, the marriage broke up.

I remember praying fervently for God to take this away, I would do anything, just "cure" me. In 1980 I found a copy of one of Virginia Prince's publications - 'Transvestia' - in a box with old Playboy magazines. That was 10 years into my second marriage.

Finding that copy of Transvestia was an event in my life which I can point to and say that was a definite "break" in my favor. It changed my life. I was quite excited about discovering there were other men that had the same problem that I had and was very interested in meeting and talking to them. Of course I joined Carol Beecroft's 'Society for the Second Self' (Tri-Ess, an international organization for crossdressers). That was when a name was given to the female creature that had become part of me. The membership application had a space for putting down a femme name. I didn't give it much thought. Since my first initial was 'L' I wrote down 'Linda' as the femme name. I also saw an ad in that magazine for Fantasia Fair 1980, and quickly wrote to the Outreach Institute asking for more information. I did manage to attend the 1980 Fan Fair (the second weekend) and WOW! What an experience! It was all they said and more. I really don't have room to go into everything I learned that weekend but I can say I don't think any other experience in my life had as much of an impact on how I saw things and what I thought of myself and others.

When I had gotten married the second time I was sure that I had been cured of wanting to dress in women's clothes, but, that was not to be the case. It was like a slow remembering. After being married for about 5 years I can recall looking through a Sears catalog for something or other and coming upon the party dresses and cocktail dresses and having that strange thought that I would probably look great in that and wondering how the fabric felt on one's bare skin. I began to notice well dressed women on the street and making mental notes of how they coordinated the texture patterns and/or coloring in their clothes. I somehow talked my second wife, who was very talented with a needle (made most of her own clothes), into making me a dress for a Fashing (German costume party - 1976) and she kept asking why couldn't I use a mop or something rather than an expensive wig and why wasn't I going to try to be a caricature instead of looking so real. I managed to come up with some evasive answer and we went with me dressed as a woman and her as a man. We did have a good time though.

Two years later I managed to talk her into making another dress for another Fashing; this time one more fashionable and better tailored. I dieted for three months and when I got dressed that night the effect was unbelievable. The party was a repeat of the first Halloween party 15 years before. I wasn't recognized. My spouse insisted that we go in separately. Some of the guys were lighting my cigarettes, buying me drinks and asking me to dance. Some of them even wanted to dance after they found out who I was. The more attention I got, the more upset my wife became. When we got home, I insisted that we talk and I put a label on my behavior for her - transvestism. I tried to explain that I wasn't gay and had no interest in the male population, but she was too upset to listen.

As I became more secure in myself and my relationships with others I began to lose my sense of confusion, shame and guilt. Don't misunderstand me, there still are a lot of questions without answers (to this day) but they (the answers) don't seem as important as

they once did. I began to participate more in the activities and workings of the local group and took on responsibilities in regard to Fantasia Fair. I began writing and publishing the local crossdresser's support group newsletter 'Our Sorority' in 1981. As the responsibilities became greater there came a bigger circle of friends for Linda, and a feeling of comfort and acceptability for her. Linda began to develop as a person in her own right with her likes and dislikes as well as mannerisms and tastes. Larry's confidence coupled with Linda's allowed me to face the developing marital problems with common sense and maturity. As Linda became more involved with the paraculture and more outgoing, my spouse began to fear discovery and also to wonder about my heterosexuality and the transsexual possibilities. With the help of spouses and other CD's and some tapes of talks given by psychiatrists and psychologists my spouse gradually came to understand that this 'hobby' (for want of a better word) was not something that I chose to explore but that it was one of those things that one has forced upon them by the fates, or life if you will, and that we would have to deal with it together.

LOOKING BACK

As I mentioned in the beginning when Linda first began to make her existence known, my confusion, shame and guilt were almost overwhelming (I guess we will never know the numbers of those poor individuals who it did overwhelm). But, from my perspective now, knowing the things I know and having experienced some of the sexual discrimination that women confront daily (like being talked to by salespeople as if I was a moron). I feel that I am a more stable and balanced individual who, without having been so "blessed" with this "hobby" would never have met the people I've met, experienced the broadening of my emotions, and been privileged to be a front row observer of life and its many varied forms of expression and styles. There are a few drawbacks. From time to time I feel like my close friends should know about Linda, but then better sense prevails and the wish for them to know about the hidden side of me diminishes. I know I would feel more whole if they did know. This is not to diminish the horror and misery that my spouse and I went through after I told her, but I know enough after almost 30 years of living with this compulsion to know that I cannot honestly promise anyone, for any reason, to give it up. Because we go to the shore in the summer I have to make sure I don't shave my legs or chest so close to the vacation that the hair will not have grown back in time. My age and height prevent me from going out dressed in public in the daytime, but I have relatively little trouble at night. I have been out in public; restaurants, malls and theaters (both movies and live) enough times dressed to have sufficient confidence to relax and enjoy it. My spouse does not have this advantage. Her fear of recognition or, worse yet, fear of ridicule prevents her from going out with me except in special cases like going to another CD's home.

Now, how did I get to be the cover girl on Tapestry's Issue #51? I'm not sure I can truthfully answer that question. I'm 5'11", 170, and people have made mention of the fact that there is very little difference in 'Brother' and 'Sister'. Personally, I think that Merissa Sherrill Lynn was being charitable.

MY personal philosophy in regards to the paraculture is identical to the best philosophy for daily living - that the more you help others the greater your rewards will be. I also know that if there were a pill developed tomorrow to "cure" this "hobby" I wouldn't take it. My personal horizons were broadened far and beyond what they would have been had I not been "blessed" with this "hobby".

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RELIGION
A MATTER OF CHOICE

By: Nikki Bee

Over the past few years I have read a number of articles in regard to, or in response to religious beliefs or if you wish, non-beliefs. Some of these articles went to great lengths to expound the rationale that their God was in fact nature itself, which is fine. My beliefs tell me that nature is another manifestation of God. Then there are the atheists and agnostics, or so-called secular humanists that believe in the premise that the human condition itself is their God. This, too, is fine. Again, it is simply a matter of choice. If any of the above is where your particular belief system has you at this time, that is your choice, your right, and I think I shall add a God-given right, for if it were not so there would be no choices.

Before I go any further it might be best if I clarify something. I have absolutely no wish or desire to hurt anyone, nor to put down anyone's particular beliefs. I advocate nothing. All I'm trying to say is where my own beliefs are and how I came to them. My only intent is to hopefully bring into the open for discussion that it is all a matter of choice; to live in guilt and denial or to live free, free from guilt, free from denial, free to simply be yourself. I fully believe that the atheist, the agnostic, the secular humanist can live rich, happy productive lives, but if they could embrace the premise of the existence of a God they would be even richer, happier, and far more productive.

As you may have guessed by now, Ol' Nikki Bee happens to chose to believe in God, in a higher power, a higher order of things past, of the present, of things to come, of promises for the future. And you better believe this... my belief did not come about from a bolt of lightening from the blue, or a sudden goose from the Holy Ghost. It was a slow awakening, a painfully slow awakening to the awareness of the existence of this God.

In retrospect I think my first real perceptions of God were that this God was, above all other things, a loving God, and a forgiving God. You see, this God forgave me my many-many transgressions while an active alcoholic. This God gave me the wisdom and strength to stop drinking myself to death. This God knew I could not do it alone. This God saw fit to put a woman into my life, a wonderful, empathetic, loving woman, a woman that brought me out of denial, and brought me into the world of self-acceptance.

For most of our twenty two years of marriage it was OK for me to express my 'woman within', although it was strictly limited to the bedroom. With two young daughters, we felt it was necessary. But, that was alright, the panties, bras and nightdresses were enough. I felt no real need, no driving compulsion to go any further. Then nearly five years ago my wife was taken away from me. Yes, she was taken by this loving God! That really put me into a real tailspin. I went through more than a year of pure unadulterated hell trying to understand the big "why?". Why me?

The lesson I think that I have learned from this is that no one will ever understand the "why's" for the actions of God, but that is not really what is important. What is important is that we learn to accept the will of God, for life goes on, must go on. I say this with all sincerity. About ten days after my wife's death I walked into a bar and ordered a double shot and a beer (I never was a classy drinker). It was not self-preservation that got me out of there, because I just did not care, did not give a damn whether I lived or died. The bartender must have thought I was a real wacko, because I bought the drink, and the next thing I knew I was in my car and driving down the street. SOMETHING carried me out of that bar! Don't ask me what, for I do not really know other than to say it was the will of God.

So, I did not drink. I did stay dry and sober, but my spiritual self, my very sanity was a while on pretty shaky ground. One of the factors that helped me maintain my sanity was the emergence of Nikki from the bedroom closet... and it was done with the full support of my now fully grown daughters and a sister.

A little on my religious background: I was born and raised a Catholic, but around the age of puberty I knew that Catholicism was not for me. There was too much of the "Thou Shalt Not" church to meet my spiritual needs. During the years that followed I tried a number of times to go back, always with the same result, emptiness. Through many years of struggle, denial and active alcohol-

ism, I sought an understanding of God. I tried other churches. Failure! It became so bad I even started to listen to the Falwells and the Swaggerts. Failure! Then I fully believe that God once again took my hand and led me to a church, a church that I have been actively involved in now for three years. The outreach of this church extends to my TV support group, 'Serenity'. (I, and members of my group, attend social activities and services as our femselves.) The primary teaching of this church is that of LOVE, love of God, love of self, and love all neighbors.

About now you must be wondering "What the devil does all of that have to do with crossdressing?" Well I really felt it necessary to give some background on how I got to where I am today. Now we can at last get to the nitty gritty.

I have heard the bible being quoted in condemning our penchant for wearing the clothing of the opposite sex. The only biblical reference that I am aware of in regard to crossdressing is found in Deuteronomy 22:5. The New International Version says, "A woman must not wear man's clothing, nor a man wear woman's clothing, for the Lord your God detests anyone who does this." The Revised Standard Version says, "A woman shall not wear anything that pertains to a man, nor shall a man put on a woman's garment; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord your God."

The first comment I want to make in regard to this is that the book of Deuteronomy is known as one of the books of Laws. What you need to take into consideration is that these are ancient Hebrew laws, many of them meant to protect the Hebrew race, religion, and customs. Many were viable relevant laws a few thousand years ago, but they are not today. Now, the next thing that needs to be taken into consideration once again is a matter of choice. If you choose to put yourself in guilt because of the above cited biblical prohibition than you must in good conscience obey all the laws.

Try some of these on for size:

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 It says, in effect, if you have a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his mother and father, take him to the gate of town and stone him to death.

Deuteronomy 22:8 When you build a house, make a parapet around your roof so that you may not bring the guilt of bloodshed on your house if someone falls from the roof.

Deuteronomy 22:11 Do not wear cloths of wool and linen together.

Deuteronomy 22:22 If a man is found sleeping with another man's wife, both the man who slept with her and the woman must die.

Deuteronomy 23:1 No one who has been emasculated by crushing or cutting may enter the assembly of the Lord.

And on, and on, and on....

Back to Deuteronomy 22:5, that seemingly prohibits crossdressing. I have read a Rabbinical translation or interpretation of the reasoning behind this law. It is cited that it is a far greater sin for a woman to wear the clothing of a man. Also, at the time, and even into the present, women were excluded from some Hebrew ceremonies. This law was an attempt to keep women from dressing as men and sneaking into forbidden ceremonies. The translation goes on to state that the portion about men dressing as women was simply thrown in to give the law a seemingly fair balance.

So here again it is a matter of choice. Do we believe all, do we believe nothing, or do we just pick and choose whatever happens to suit our fancy at any given time???

My particular faith and belief system happens to be totally based on the teachings of Jesus during his short three year ministry here on earth. Very nearly all of those teachings had one common thread, it is the word **"LOVE"!** Again and again 'love' is found in the four Gospels, **love** of God, **love** of self, and **love** of all others. The cornerstones of my faith are found in the Book of Matthew: Chap.7, verses 1-5 -- Chap.22; 37-40. I do hope that you all have a bible handy and will read the above cited passages. (I would like to have put them in here, but had better start cutting this a little short or this could turn into a book.)

Over the past three years I have not only read the bible but a number of books about the bible,, how the bible came into being in its present form, the many translations and interpretations, and how much today is still in question about many of the translations. I have learned enough to know that when anyone says that the bible is infallible what they are in truth saying is that their own personal interpretation is infallible. Now that takes a monumental arrogance and ego, especially as the bible is found today, particularly the King James version.

I feel I have discovered the true meaning of the word 'Christian'. It means LOVE, love of God, love of self, and love of all others. Now, when I speak of 'love of self', I do not speak of narcissistic love, but basically just feeling good about yourself, content with who and what you are. Any institution, any individual that teaches other than that message of love is evil, is a true abomination in the eyes of God... at least MY God!

Here is a thought that may really blow your panty hose away. My conception of God is that God is genderless, yep, genderless; neither male nor female, a composite of both. There are places in the bible where God is

referred to in the feminine. If Jesus had lived in a matriarchal society, Jesus could very well have been a Mary or Naomi.

In no way, shape, or form do I consider myself any sort of biblical scholar. But, I think I can say that the most important lesson I have learned has given me a freedom I would not have thought possible three short years ago. I have learned from the bible that I do not have, have never had, and will never have the right to judge or condemn anyone. But, the really NEAT thing about that is I can say with, I feel, no ego or arrogance that no one, and I mean absolutely no one on this earth, has the right to judge or condemn me for simply being what I am! That has given me a personal freedom, a contentment, a peace of mind and serenity that would have been impossible any other way... for you see, "I too am a child of God"... as are all of you.

Soooo, what I consider the bottom line, in essence, is this: It is simply a matter of choice! You can permit the hate-filled judgmental condemnation of the Falwells and the Swaggerts to destroy all that you hold near and dear. Oooorrrr, you could prevent the bigoted judgments of others from disturbing your peace of mind, happiness, total love and acceptance of self and your serenity.

IT IS YOUR CHOICE -- NO ONE ELSE'S!

With Love,
Happy Dressing,
- Nikki Bee

(Nikki Bee is the founder and director of a TV/TS support group in Southeast Florida called 'Serenity'. If you would like to contact Nikki or inquire about her group, write: Nikki Bee, Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022)

(Tomye Kelley, M.A. is a Denver psychotherapist in private practice. Her therapeutic practice is limited to work with gender-conflicted persons, cross-dressers, and their significant others. Tomye Kelley, M.A., 8972 Oberon Rd, Arvada, CO 303-420-9885)

STANDARDS OF CARE AND HORMONE THERAPY FOR TRANSSEXUALS

Compiled by: Tomye Kelley, M.A.

HORMONES

The Standards of Care state that one must be in psychotherapy 90 days prior to hormones. That's all that the document says about the qualification for hormones. Not infrequently the client thinks that this means "attending" therapy sessions for about thirteen weeks and stopping by to pick up a letter from the endocrinologist. In this paper I want to look at just what needs to happen during those first 90 days, or whatever time it may take. Remember, the Standards of Care is a bare-bones guide, a minimum standard that should not be undercut. It is not a schedule that says, in this time what needs to be done, can be done.

There are several things that must be explored and resolution begun before any consideration of hormones. This is not a situation of entitlement, nor is it a situation of self diagnosis and self determination. Hormones are not a benign medication; this medication carries all sorts of possible complications, beginning with the very real possibility of creating a "pseudo transsexual" by hormonally feminizing a genetic male who may only be cycling up or over-reacting to a temporary situation in his life.

EVALUATION AND DIAGNOSIS

This is a process that cannot be rushed, as in-depth case history is essential. Observation of the client over time is an aid to this procedure. It is not enough for a sincere and well-meaning client to come into the office and emotionally insist that he has felt like a woman all his life, or that he is not a "transsexual" but a "woman". The client is paying the clinician to be stronger and more objective than he can be himself. The client is paying for the therapist to spend her time and energy in studying and researching this subject, in fact, to have more information and awareness than he can have. It is through this information and objectivity that evaluation must come.

The client needs to explore in depth his experience in relationships, especially love relationships. He needs to be freshly aware of the attitudes and expectations that he took into those relationships and how well those attitudes and expectations worked. He needs to look at what he got from the relationship and how he will deal with the changes that hormone therapy will bring about. If he is in a marital relationship, that must be resolved before hormones. The marriage contract implies sexual activity. Taking estrogen will interfere with such activity, if not make it entirely impossible. It is unethical to provide an extraneous medication that is deliberately calculated to interfere with one's ability to fulfill the implied contract. Simply for a spouse to come into the office and state that it is alright with her for her husband to take estrogen is not enough. It is the responsibility of the therapist to see some reasonable resolution between the primary client and the relationship partner before hormones are administered. If the therapist cannot see resolution in which she feels comfortable, it is inappropriate to prescribe hormones.

If the primary client is not ready to resolve the relationship, then he is not ready to make the ultimate sacrifices for his "womanhood". This gives the therapeutic relationship a luxury of time in which the client and the therapist can further explore other explanations for his feelings of gender conflict. Such an event should not be viewed as a failure or a difficulty. It is an advantage and may be the most important element of recovery or discovery for the client. (After all, the therapeutic goal should be finding out what is necessary for the client.)

The therapeutic process needs to focus on the client's attitude toward his genitals. Both the therapist

and the client must keep in mind that the medication under consideration is (possibly) going to render his genitals flaccid and non-functional. Even masturbation may become difficult or nearly impossible. What has the attitude toward the genitals been over time? What are the ways in which this attitude has been demonstrated? What time period are we talking about?

During the first 90 days the therapist needs to listen closely for self-reports of cyclical feelings in the compulsive behaviors and feelings. It is the intensity of the feelings and thought processes on which these observations need to focus, not the frequency. In exploring the episodes from the past when the client sought, or considered seeking, help with the dressing or gender problem, when suicide was attempted or seriously considered, a cyclic pattern of thoughts and feelings emerge. When the client can be made aware of such a pattern in his own self-report and encouraged to examine this pattern in order to more clearly chart its course, he may will be able to see that what has occurred in the past may very well reoccur in his life although at the moment that feels quite improbable. A full familiarity with the nature of cycling is essential prior to any consideration of hormones.

EFFECTS OF HORMONE THERAPY

I have interviewed dozens of patients who were in the hospital for sex-reassignment surgery only to find they have no idea of the effects that hormone therapy was having or going to have upon their bodies. It boggles the mind to think of a medical profession that proclaims itself to be the caretakers and protectors of our physical welfare, being content to administer a powerful chemical without full disclosure and full understanding on the part of the patient. Perhaps a part of the explanation for such an occurrence is that the medical profession is reluctant to accept the patient as a partner in their own health care. If such a change in attitude is to occur, it is the responsibility of the patient to cause it to occur. As we hear in the woman's movement so frequently, power is never relinquished willingly; it must be wrested free if it is to be free.

In all events, the client can and must be a partner in the critical decision of whether or not hormone therapy is to occur. An intelligent decision can be arrived at only when the client has full knowledge of what he can and cannot expect from the medication on all three levels: physical, psychological, and emotional. He must know the risks and the early warning signs of these risks. He must have an accurate expectation of all the various kinds of changes he can expect to happen. Equally as important, he needs to know what will not be affected by hormone therapy.

The client must know the complicated monitoring process that is essential to his future health. The frequency of these tests must be clearly understood; monitoring too frequently causes undue expense and inconvenience for the client. Monitoring that does not occur with sufficient frequency and thoroughness takes unnecessary risks with the client's health. Abuse of the medication can result in excessive atrophy of the genital tissue, resulting in insufficient tissue from which to construct female genitalia. Continued or extreme abuse of hormone therapy can cause a break in the client's health and in some cases has resulted in death. Abuse of hormones coupled with substance abuse (such as alcohol) can surely lead to death. Hormones are not a benign or recreational medication, and their misuse without proper supervision can have critical results.

TIME FRAME

Before anyone goes on extraneous hormone therapy they need to have a clear understanding of the anticipated effects as well as the time frame in which they can expect these effects to take place. It is improper for the physician to administer hormone therapy with no plans to deal with the problems that such medication will surely cause. Physical changes will take place. Psychological effects will occur. Some emotional changes may be evident. All these frequently observed changes should be made known to the client ad the most frequent time frame should also be made known. It becomes the client's responsibility to explore possible resolutions for these change-points before they cause a problem.

Clients are often wrapped up in themselves and focusing almost entirely on self and self-needs. The outside world has been seen as so controlling and demanding, without concern for the client's needs and feelings, that now he is saying, "It's my time!" In this light, clients may view their taking or not taking hormones as being their business and theirs alone. Seldom can any of us live (for very long) in a vacuum. Family or professional emergencies or celebrations do occur, and it has become essential that the client make an appearance. If the client has decided to make his changes in hiding, his appearance at this point in an androgynous state or (more confusingly) as a partially womanly person can produce extreme discomfort for himself and for others. The point at which secrecy can no longer be tolerated is certainly at the point of starting hormone therapy. Thus a clear understanding of the time frame for changes and the beginning of resolution with the family are essential.

For the business place, the client must again be aware of the time frame for physical, psychological, and perhaps emotional changes. He should be considering what his options are. It very well may be necessary that he develop some new options. The time for such

development is **BEFORE** the need arises.

As a matter of fact, given the progression of the effects of hormone therapy, the client needs about three steps in his plan. These steps should be based on three levels of development and change. Until and unless the client is willing to do effective work in this area, it is not appropriate that hormone therapy be administered. It further might be mentioned that a pre-transitional or early transitional client who is not employed, who has not resolved the issue of supporting one's self and establishing a plan for the future, is not an appropriate candidate for hormone therapy. The reasons for this position are self-evident.

GOALS

To many this seems an unnecessary consideration. In fact, it may be. However, I require that it be covered. This is a paradoxical item, also. First, hormone therapy is not a recreational medication. It is not appropriate that it be used to produce a she-male body for sexual satisfaction or personal titillation. Hormone therapy, as stated several times, is not a benign medication. It is not appropriate that it be taken just to "see how it feels", or to "try it on for a while and see if I really want to be a woman". These are issues that need to be explored in therapy, not with chemicals.

Hormones are not a substitute for tranquilizers to be used to help a person get through his days and make it easier for him to cope with life. Nor should hormones ever be prescribed to allow the client to "keep up with the others". Don't disallow this one too quickly! As needed as peer support is, and as many needs as it does fill, one of its major drawbacks is that it can generate a seductive atmosphere with a "keeping up with the other girls" feeling likely to creep in.

The Standards of Care says the client should receive 90 days minimum of on-going psychotherapy with a single clinician before hormones. I have tried in this paper to spell out for you some of the tasks that must be completed prior to any consideration of hormone therapy, regardless of how much time it takes. Remember, the person you are taking care of is **YOU**. No one else can do that as well as you can.

Yvonne Cook, IFGE Director of Operations. "We insist that our IFGE officers conduct themselves with dignity, pride, and a lady-like demeanor at all times!" *(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)*

(Editor's note: This commentary was originally written as the preface to the IFGE Hormone Guide, by Tapestry Publications.)

COMMENTARY:

HORMONES

By Charlene Mann

No other single subject in the field of crossdressing and transsexualism excites more curiosity and stronger emotional reactions than that of hormones. Sensationalized tabloid headlines and the cumulative effect of tales passed by word of mouth through uncountable retellings paint "hormone treatments" as the "magic bullet" of transsexualism. It is commonly believed that a few little pills (obtained from whatever source) will magically transform a hairy, booming man into a charming image of true femininity. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Take it from one who knows: If you mess with "street drugs" of any sort, you will eventually get burned. Hormones are no exception. Hormones are among the most powerful neurochemicals known to biochemistry. Even if you are a healthy, well-balanced patient under the care of a skilled and experienced physician the effects of hormone treatment can be devastating. This is due not only to the potentially toxic effects of the drugs themselves, but also (and much more commonly) the impact of the changes in your appearance and behavior on those who are closest to that person. Human relationships are so precious - and so often based on a fragile mental image (read misconception) of sex and gender which shatters (along with the relationship) when one of the parties "changes". One can always take off the dress or the work boots. But a newly-sprouted beard (on a female-to-male) or a budding pair of breasts (on a male-to-female) can only be removed by surgical means - electrolysis for the former, mammary reduction surgery for the latter. for all intents and purposes, the changes that hormones produce (socially as well as physically) are permanent. Making and keeping good friends is difficult enough for "normal", "straight" people. These same people often despise and ridicule those who undertake such changes as can be made through hormones. This is not to disparage such folk. They have their problems too. But hormone treatment is a heavily "loaded" issue. Remember: "Therapy" is only therapy if it helps you in the long run. What sort of person do you want to be when you die? and who do you want at your side to see you off?

At the present time, ignorance and ancient superstition have made sex - and gender-related issues the most volatile matters of all in the minds of many well-meaning persons in our culture. As a result, no other class of legitimate medications is capable of causing such a degree of social disruption in your life as hormones.

Some of the information presented in the articles of this compilation is contradictory. This is because each human body responds differently to hormones - even the same ones in the same dose. Mother Nature made us all different to insure the survival of the species. That means our fundamental body chemistries as well as our hair color and sexual orientation. Hormones, unlike aspirin, are extremely complex molecules. They are part of the web of physical life itself - a very small part. To "Play" with hormones is to "play" with the fabric of life as you know it.

You have an absolute right to the information that is available. However, you should not under any circumstances attempt to "diagnose" or "treat" yourself on the basis of what you may learn. If you are still convinced (or better yet, reasonably certain) that you would personally benefit from hormones, PLEASE seek out a qualified, experienced therapist or Gender Identity Center. Your life is precious. You owe yourself no less than the very best.

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PERSONAL STORY

KAREN K. (CA-0322)

Over the years I have read many articles by cross-dressers concerning the development of their feminine nature, and I have come to realize how similar we all are. The places, names, jobs, etc. may be different, but the way we all felt are in some degree the same. Most of us became aware at an early age of these feelings to express a feminine side of our personality, and they may develop at that time or later in life. These feelings to express the feminine side of our personality are not sexual in their nature, but are psychological in many ways. There is also very little guilt with these feelings when we are young; but as we grow older and the roles of being a male become more defined, then we develop guilt. This guilt may cause us at times to think we are the only person in the world with these feelings; so we feel very much alone and question our identity. Yet, when we finally become in tune with our true selves and see ourselves as good people, then we begin to grow as human beings. We also begin to develop our personality, and the feminine part of that personality is no longer separated from our inner selves. When this realization happens within our lives, it is like a rebirth of ourselves; since we finally become that whole person we were created to be. With these thoughts in mind, I would like to share with you some of my development and growth in accepting the feminine aspects of my life.

I was born over 44 years ago in a small town in the Midwest. I remember nothing about the town, because my parents moved within a year of my birth. My father was in the service, and my brother and sister were born in New York city. My brother died at a very early age; so it was just my sister and I. My father had flown for the Navy during the war. After the war he became involved with the early development of jet aviation. since this was the early years of jet aircraft, we did a great deal of moving during the next twelve years. The moving around didn't upset me, and I looked forward to new experiences and meeting new friends. We finally moved to the Northwest, and I spent the rest of my early years there. I still consider the Northwest my home, and plan within the next few years living there the rest of my life.

Both of my parents cared a great deal for my sister and me, and they believed very strongly in love and discipline in the home. They both stressed that we treat people with respect and remember we are responsible for our actions. They both would be considered conservative in their outlook on life, and this did cause some tension later - but reflecting back, I see a home filled with a great deal of love.

Karen K. (CA-0322)

In the second grade I became very interested in clothes that the girls in my class wore. They seemed to me to be so much more comfortable, and there was something about them that interested me. I have tried over the years to figure out this interest, but still don't know today what it was. Over the last several years I have just accepted it as a part of me. The interest stayed with me, and sometimes I wished I could wear what they were wearing to school.

When I entered the third grade, I became interested in other things like sports. Hence, my interest in girls clothes faded into the grey area of my mind. I thought it was gone forever, but two years later it returned.

I was home alone and bored. I went upstairs to explore. I entered my parents bedroom and saw my mother's dress on the bed. The old interest came back, and I had to try on the dress to see how I would look in it. It put it on over my other clothes, and a feeling of relaxation came over me. I heard someone, quickly took off the dress and placed it back on the bed. For the first time in my life

I felt as if I had done something seriously wrong. I decided to go to confession the next day. The priest reprimanded me for trying on my mother's dress and made me promise not to do it again. I also promised myself that it would never happen again.

I was able to keep this promise by total will power for almost two years. Then one day, while in a friend's bathroom, I saw his mother's nylons hanging to dry. I wanted to try them on, but kept thinking of the promise I had made. For the next four or five minutes it was my will against my desire, and I finally gave in. They felt so nice on my legs; but then I began feeling guilty. This experience was also a turning-point in my life; and there would be many other contests with my will. Each of these contests would turn out the same - with the same guilt feelings afterward.

Over the next five years I began to dress more and more at home by trying on my sister's and mother's clothes. I did it only when I was alone and had locked all the doors. It was the exception then to have to lock your doors, so I always had an excuse ready.

One Friday morning I was home alone and decided to dress completely. Up to this time I had never worn panties, bra, etc.; but this was to be the day. My sister had a golden-green dress that I loved; and it looked nice on me. I had been dressed about an hour when I heard a car in the driveway. I looked out the window and saw my uncle and aunt. Suddenly I panicked, ran upstairs to quickly change clothes and unlock the door. In my hurry to remove the dress, I tore it. Now panic really set in. How would I explain the tear if asked. Again I promised to never dress again. No one asked me about the dress; so within two months I was back trying on mother's and sister's clothes again. Dressing during this time relieved some of the tensions building up within me, but I always felt guilty afterward.

After graduating from high school, I received an athletic scholarship to play baseball and hockey at a major university; so I decided again to stop dressing. I had also decided that since I was now going to college, all this dressing had to stop. It was time to act like an adult. I was no longer a child, and I had to put away this childish behavior. I didn't dress at all for a year, during which time I was miserable.

It was also during this time that I read that I was not the only person in the world who liked to dress in women's clothing. This realization lifted a great weight off my back, but it was described as an abnormal sexual behavior that was homosexual in its make-up. This only confused me more; so I decided to see the school psychiatrist. He was a comfort to me. He helped me understand my need to dress and realize that I was not a homosexual just because I liked women's clothes. He also helped me deal with my guilt feelings, because of the concepts he shared with me. This enabled me to understand some of the reasons why I liked to dress. Over the next ten years I was able to deal in a more positive manner with these feelings. I haven't felt any sense of guilt now for nearly eleven years. I am now very comfortable with my dressing, and I enjoy going out. This didn't happen overnight; but it began with the psychiatrist's help.

While in college I took ROTC, thinking everyone would know that I was a male. After graduation, I received my commission and went on active duty. My first assignment was sixteen months at a basic training unit. I was very hard on the young new soldiers. Now I realize this was because I was still uncertain of my masculinity. During this time I didn't dress at all, and it began to affect my health. My next assignment was to Viet Nam. I still deal with some of the affects of this today, but I have learned how to deal with them in a positive manner. I dressed for the first time in nearly two years while on "R & R" in Hawaii.

After Viet Nam it took me almost a year to adjust to America again. I now knew what I wanted to do with my life, and life itself took on a different meaning. I returned to graduate school to get my M.A. degree, and received a Ph.D. several years later. It was to be almost six years before I was to dress again. Nearly two years after that I finally was able to fully accept myself regarding the dressing. Those were two tension-filled years (including two purges), during which time I developed high blood pressure. Only after I began dressing again did my blood pressure return to a safe level.

This acceptance of my dressing over the last nine or ten years has made all the difference in my life. I'm now at peace within myself, and I really enjoy expressing the feminine side of my personality. It has been only the last four-and-a-half years that I've felt comfortable going out dressed in public.

The step of going out dressed was not an easy one, but the walls at home and the motel rooms kept getting smaller and smaller once I accepted myself. Yet, the most difficult thing for me to do was join an organization for cross-dressers. I didn't know if I wanted to meet other cross-dressers. I had looked into some groups, and disagreed with their philosophies. It was only after I joined an organization that I realized they were just like me. I have met some outstanding sisters over the past ten years. They helped me grow as a person and with my journey from the dark closet to the fresh air of freedom.

Before coming to California over two years ago, I was Vice President of the Tri Delta Mu Chapter back East. This chapter means a great deal to me. I have also been able to visit many sisters around the country, and would like to share some of those experiences with you.

One of the sisters whose friendship I value is Joan Grey. We had corresponded several times before I moved

to California. Shortly after arriving here, she invited me to stay with her for a weekend. We had a lovely evening including dinner and drinks at a local restaurant with another sister. Seven years ago I would never have gone out dressed as a woman -- because of my own fears. I know there are times when I haven't passed as a woman, but those fears no longer control my life.

Another incident happened with Joan several months later, again at a restaurant. After dinner I went to the Ladies Room to freshen up my make-up. As I was about to walk into the Room, a good friend of mine was leaving there to join her husband. She walked past me without acknowledging me. I have talked to these friends several times since then; they have never mentioned this incident. Hence, it was a very valuable learning experience for me. If you react by giving yourself away when you pass people that you know, they will "read" you. But if you act normal, they will only see a woman passing them.

Last summer I spent a few days in Portland, OR. Portland is one of my favorite cities, because of its attitude toward cross-dressers. One of my close friends there is Ellen Summers. Ellen is one of the sisters who helped me come out of the closet. Several sisters were having an outing, and Ellen invited me along. We did some sightseeing, joined eleven other sisters at a downtown restaurant, went shopping at the largest shopping mall in the area, and finished the evening with a nightcap at a local lounge. It was a long evening, but one I won't forget for a long time.

Late last Fall while attending a conference in Atlanta, GA, I was able to visit with another sister who lives in the area. We went to Stone Mountain in the afternoon and had dinner at a nice restaurant later that evening.

This past January I was asked to be part of a panel discussion on cross-dressing at San Diego State University. I almost declined, but decided to participate hoping I might be able to help even one or two students. I also wanted them to understand a positive approach about cross-dressing. This also gave me the chance to reflect on my own cross-dressing over my life. I realized that I am now more at peace within myself concerning my need to cross-dress. This peace has carried over into other areas of my life also.

I hope I have many more years ahead of me as a cross-dresser. These are years that I will discover in a deeper way what it means to express the feminine side of my personality. This is important to me, because I hope I never reach the point where I think I know it all. Then I will have stopped growing as a person. It is that growth within me that makes Karen very much alive.

IT'S AWE-FULL BEING YOURSELF!

By: JoAnne S.

I have found that discovering what you are really all about is rather like opening a series of Chinese boxes where inside each box is an even smaller one as you eagerly search for that hidden treasure that is you. As you open yourself up to the realm of possibility, you discover that the smallest of the boxes is simply the matter/stuff which makes up your physical life and surroundings. Whereas, the biggest and perhaps most difficult box to open is the one that contains spirit. Somewhere inside that large wonderful box lies the real you and me, which in our case, embodies a mysterious but magical feminine being which influences and occupies much of our outer space and time.

Soren Kierkegaard said that the most common despair in life is to be in despair of not choosing, or willing, to be oneself and that the deepest despair is to become something "other" than what you really are. Gilt comes from self-depreciation or being less than what one is. I would simply suggest that the sooner crossdressers begin their task of opening the boxes at hand, the sooner their behavior will seem less compulsive or process addictive and become a behavior of controlled choice and direction.

One needs inner-directed willingness to become responsible for one's actions, such as crossdressing. Responsibility leads to accountability and to commitment. Commitment leads to motivation and motivation to more discipline and understanding.

The first step in dealing with the external social forces attempting to explain our exceptional behavior pattern, is to have a firm grasp on both sides of our boxes of internal influences as both individuals and organizations.

To grow means to develop to maturity, not only by getting bigger but also quantitatively through inner growth. The same is true for all living and viable systems. Many of our future choices as crossdressers are going to be ambiguous at best; and in our desire to make our lives

better through wise choices, we need to move and be moved from simple points of view to a viewing point.

One doesn't discover new lands or open new boxes without consenting to losing sight of the shoreline for a long time. Even to get away from that shoreline, requires a self that is steering a sleek cruiser and not a leaky canoe.

One of Buddha's four noble truths states that the minute you grab onto something in life, you will begin to suffer. The cause of that suffering is clinging or attachment. If you hold to youth, you will suffer about old age. If you hold to being rich, you'll suffer about being poor. If you hold to masculinity, femininity will suffer. If you hold only to what others perceive you to be, you will suffer.

The contemplation of self is embodied in action. Enlightened action is the requirement of our times; they're the only times we have. So each one of us must open up those boxes - especially the one of spirit, to find out who "you" are. (In one sense, it doesn't really matter who "we" are.) Only you can tell if you are beautiful or ugly inside? Truth waits for eyes that are unclouded by longing - by longing to be feminine - begin by opening boxes.

As crossdressers, what rites of passage do we need to create for those to follow so they can gain self-esteem and maturity in this process? those rites need to come from within ourselves, our spirits - not from our counselors, our studiers, our explainers. What would it be like if we simply refused to accept anything, except that which created a wholeness in ourselves and in one another?

The dreams that you dream can only come true when you take the time to listen to the music in your heart - the music that is you. Which box is your heart in? Which box is in your heart?

OUR FEARS AND TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THEM

By: Kim

Do you remember what you biggest problem was when you started crossdressing? I am sure your answer would be FEAR. It might have just been fear because you did not understand what you were doing. I don't mean that you didn't know you were putting on a dress, slip, hose, shoes, etc., but the fear of WHAT AM I REALLY DOING? Am I becoming Gay, a pervert, or worse?

Now you are probably becoming more comfortable with the fact of dressing up and enjoying it like I do. Now our fears have refocused.

Now we need to deal with the fear that someone else will find out what we are doing. This might be our wife, girlfriend, family or someone who is special to us. That thought of "I DON'T GIVE A DARN WHO KNOWS", just doesn't fly. If it did, then why all the fears?

We first go into the closet, and never answer the door when someone comes and we are dressed. We jump when the phone rings as if they can see us. Gradually, we get more brave and may even open the curtains, but still run and hide if we see someone coming or think they might be looking our way.

Next a really traumatic fear; "Who can I tell?" because deep down you really want to share this secret with someone. Will it be a wife, girlfriend, lover, or valued family member? "Just who do I feel I can trust?" "Who is not going to make me feel like a fool?" You might first throw out hints about our culture. Make a remark something like: "I was reading the other day about this man who likes to dress up like a woman" to see how they react. Maybe take them to see the movie Tootsie, just to see what kind of response they give. Are they sympathetic to poor Tootsie? Or were they horrified? Finally you choose someone. (Hopefully they were responsive to you or at least did not call up everyone to warn them about the pervert they all know.)

Next, we deal with the fear of COMING OUT - - you know, like Spring cotillions. "Where do I go? I know that someone will spot me as a freak; I don't even really pass halfway. Everyone is looking right at me and THEY ALL KNOW." Most people don't even see who is sitting next to them in a restaurant, if the person acts as natural as possible.

We have now made it this far. They then, when we ourselves have had this multitude of fears, do we find it so hard when our wives or significant others also have these same fears? some of us get stuck at one level of fear or the other; some of us can move on; some of us run from our fears. Why should not others have these same kinds of coping mechanisms?

It is only when we have lines of communication open, sharing our feelings, fears, knowledge, publications, and our group, that we might be able to help others overcome these fears; whether they be sisters or significant others.

Let's all try to help one another in understanding others, whether they be Crossdressers, Transsexuals, Gays, or just someone different from us.

CHERCHEZ LA FEMME FIND THE WOMAN

- ANON

I have always considered myself to be a garden variety heterosexual transvestite, with no indication of any other proclivities. Though even understanding a "run of the mill" transvestite is quite an undertaking, I've pretty much come to terms with it.

I have people who I consider friends who exist on many other levels. They are gay, bi-sexual, transsexual, fetishists, submissives, etc., and my overall feeling is "If that's what works for you, go for it!"

However, being a transvestite, I've always had trouble understanding why some people desire to have surgery performed on themselves to "be as they feel they should have been born." My belief is that gender resides in the brain and not in the physique; therefore, I've not had a desire to change myself anatomically, and never could get a handle on why others did.

As my boyself, a terrible thing is happening. I inherited from my father the genes that caused male pattern baldness at an early age. I've struggled with the result of that for several years; and recently decided to do something about it. I have been going to a hair replacement clinic.

During my last visit, I asked the woman who does my "hair", why she was sporting a large bandage on her nose. She mentioned that she had run into something while trying to catch a train and that caused a major problem because she had recently had a nose job. I couldn't figure out why she would need a nose job. She asked me if I remembered what her nose looked like that last time I was there. I could only remember that she was very attractive and I'd better remember that I was married. she mentioned that most of her friends didn't like her new nose, but she did it for herself. She didn't like looking in the mirror and seeing the flat nose that had been there, and wanted it changed to coincide with her internal image of herself.

Then I went on to talk about how that's how I felt about my hair. I don't think it's going to help me be more popular, and my wife is pretty indifferent about it. I withstand a certain amount of ridicule from friends and co-workers who know what I've done. But the bottom line is I now look like what I feel when I'm just walking around. My physical make up more coincides with what I feel inside. And I do it for me. If others like it, so much the better; but that's really secondary. I'm now a happier person.

This is not an endorsement of re-assignment surgery. I still feel that it's something that should be given serious consideration, because it is a one-way street containing many dangers. However, this is an attempt to explain what might be in the minds of those who really have no alternative but to be, finally, who they really are.

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THE GIFT

By: Janice Van Cleve

Wouldn't it be refreshing to see transvestism viewed as a positive good instead of a negative, or at best neutral, phenomenon? Fundamentalists decry it as a sin (a false charge as demonstrated in "The Bible and Transvestism", Tapestry # 49); psychologists characterize it as a sexually motivated disorder; psychiatrists treat it as an aberration imprinted by upbringing. TV's themselves argue that it is a harmless hobby, a vehicle for appreciating softness and tenderness, or an expression of a feminine side of their nature.

But what if they're all wrong? What if these characterizations fail to describe what transvestism really is? What if instead we try to look at transvestism as a gift; and not just any gift, but a gift created by Almighty god Himself and deliberately bestowed by Him on certain chosen individuals to fulfill His divine plan. Zounds! Awesome! Radical! Yes, and frightening, too.

Of course, nowhere in the Bible does Christ say: "Hitch up your hose, girls, I've got plans for you." However, He does reveal a vision of His gifts to us in all their wonderful diversity through Paul: "There are different gifts but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord; there are different works but the same God who accomplishes all of them in everyone. To each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...preaching, teaching, faith, healing, miracles, prophesy, recognizing spirits, tongues and the interpretation of tongues. All these are the manifestation of one and the same spirit, who distributes different gifts to different people just as He chooses" (1 Corinthians 12:4-11).

What's that? You didn't see transvestism in the list? Paul does not pretend that this short list includes all of God's gifts to us. He itemizes more in Romans 12:6-8 and Jesus names other in the Beatitudes such as meekness, thirst for justice, peacemaking and the rest. Indeed there are many gifts - named and unnamed - given to us "for the common good".

So why not transvestism? There isn't a shred of evidence that this is not a divine gift. Of course, when most people think of divine gifts they think of musical ability, artistic talent, intelligence, charisma, good health, etc.; but that is obviously too narrow a view. In a very touching story Jesus showed even blindness could be a gift: "He saw a man who had been blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, for him to have been born blind?' 'Neither he nor his parents sinned,' Jesus answered; 'He was born blind so that the works of God might be displayed in him." (John 9:2-3). Then He gave the man sight.

Christians have always had difficulty comprehending how a loving, good, and merciful God could permit conditions that are contrary to their concept of good. Birth defects, arthritis, an untimely death, even AIDS - all the frailties of human existence - seem cruel. Some ascribe these to sin while others become callous or turn against their God. Their faith is lacking and Jesus calls them blind: "If you were blind, you would not be guilty, but since you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains." (John 9:41)

Is it not possible that even these so-called evils are also gifts of God? And perhaps not just gifts to those stricken, but to all of us - to give us an opportunity to demonstrate a caring and loving attitude toward all our brothers and sisters. Consider the story of the Good Samaritan: Was not the victim an opportunity for the Levite, the priest, and the Samaritan to show love for another human being? But only the Samaritan saw the "gift" in the situation and helped the victim.

In the same way Christians and others often fail to comprehend how transvestism (or transsexuality or homosexuality for that matter) could be God's blessing to certain chosen persons - for their benefit and the benefit of us all. Instead, some set themselves up as judges and condemn what their price cannot accept. "You must love your neighbor as yourself; but as soon as you make distinctions between classes of people, you are committing sin", James warns them. Besides, "who are you to give a verdict on your neighbor?" (James 2:9, 4:12) Jesus Himself told Peter: "What God has made clean, you have no right to call profane." (Acts 11:9)

However, any gift may be sued for good or evil. Everything God has created is good, but its ultimate value depends on what we do with it. If we accept transvestism as a divine gift, we instantly realize that it can no longer remain a self-gratifying hobby or a mere aberration to be tolerated. Rather, it becomes a positive good - a calling or

vocation. It is right and morally good to express it and morally wrong to suppress it. Chew on that, Jerry Falwell! See what power, what confidence, what affirmation we gain from accepting this as a gift! "If God is with us, who can stand against us?" (Romans 8:31)

But wait! Before we charge off to conquer the world, take note: God's gifts do not come without strings. Remember the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)? Three servants were given gifts. Two dared to risk their gifts in investments and won a profit. The third suppressed his gift - and it was ripped from him and he was thrown out. If the two had risked and failed, would they have been punished? I think not. God does not allow us to be tested beyond our strength (1 Corinthians 10:16). The point is, the two acknowledged their gifts and accepted them. With faith in their master - they tried and succeeded.

God's gifts are His investments in us and He expects a return on the investment. Paul's advice to Timothy applies equally to us: "You have in you a spiritual gift...do not let it lie unused." (1 Timothy 4:14) The third servant did not use his gift and it was taken from him. The fig tree that did not bear fruit was ordered to be cut down (Luke 13:7-8). The spirit who distributes these gifts "just as he chooses" gives some more gifts than others. Do not envy them; for the more they have been given, the more will be demanded of them (Luke 12:48).

And what return can we transvestites make on the investment our god has made in us? Certainly we do not propose to convert the world to TVism. That's absurd! We (and transsexuals and homosexuals) are born with out gift. We can no more teach someone without our gift to become one of us than a therapist can take the gift from one who is born with it. Like it or not, the gift is given - it is ours - in us as an integral part of our unique being.

So what do we do with it? Certainly we have to acknowledge it and accept it. then what? For starters we can learn from it. We can learn a deeper appreciation and respect for all people. As a minority we can see more clearly the stupidity of prejudice. We can embrace this gift, treasure it, enjoy it, explore and develop it to its full potential, and share it with others. We can help those similarly gifted: removing their fears and roadblocks so they can become all they were meant to be. "Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourself at the service of others." (1 Peter 4:10)

And when we've learned to appreciate ourselves and others, and when we've given help to our sisters, then we can reach out to the public who do not share our gift. We can step out with pride in the full light of day as ornaments to our society. After all, "We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning He had meant us to live it." (Ephesians 2:10)

We are needed in society - precisely because we cross a gender boundary which is taken for granted so complacently by the majority. Just by being who we are, we challenge false assumptions about gender and genuinely help the public reassess their attitudes. We demonstrate in our being the diversity of God's creative genius and we help deflate the arrogance that leads to discrimination - against us and against other minorities.

We are all members of the same crew on spaceship Earth and we will all grow or die based on the contributions of each individual member. No one could contribute much if we were all the same, could we? "If you whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything? If it was just one ear, how would you smell anything? Instead of that, God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose. If all the parts were the same, how could it be a body? As it is, the parts are many but the body is one. The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I do not need you,' nor can the head say to the feet, 'I do not need you'. ...God has arranged the body so that...each part may be equally concerned for all the others. If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honor, all parts enjoy it." (1 Corinthians 12:17-21, 24-26).

We all have a place and a purpose in this world whether we understand it yet or not. Rednecks, jews, men and women, whites and blacks, Baptists, bankers, Gays, TV's and TS's - all are here at His command. Is this difficult to swallow? Even Paul had trouble with it, but he understood: "I should like everyone to be like me, but everybody has his own particular gifts from God, one with a gift for one thing and another with a gift for the opposite." (1 Corinthians 7:7).

Accepting transvestism as a divine gift means accepting also the purpose for which it was given. That may be too uncomfortable for most. But those that do accept, acquire also the power and confidence that comes from being right - not just correct according to human logic - but morally right. Slander and abuse, criticism and laughter cannot defeat them. Their self assurance and open friendliness to all people win them friendliness in return. They take their place in society as a contributing member and the world is better for them. It's a gift that truly keeps on giving.

A NEW BEGINNING
or
THERAPY WORKS - NO PAIN NO GAIN

By: Carl/Cheryl Costa

I often hear TS's say that there are few alternatives to reassignment surgery. At one time in my life I believed that statement to be correct. I've also read my share of articles that said that psychotherapy isn't worth much when it comes to relieving the pain suffered by TS's. A lot of TS's I've met usually get only enough therapy to get approval for surgery. Often the reasons appear sound on the surface. "I need the money for surgery," or "I need the money for electrolysis". The best retort I've heard is that "Therapy just doesn't work". Even the therapists will tell you that it's not an exact science. Then why pursue therapy?

I believe a very good answer to that is to DISCOVER YOURSELF. Those of us with TS inclinations are hurting very seriously inside. We're desperately seeking answers to our complex questions, to many of which there are no answers. My experience with therapy has shown me a way of making peace with myself and finding some of those answers to my questions. Discovering yourself is what it's all about.

In the Spring of 1987 I was transferred to Virginia. Promptly after being transferred, I went into a "crisis" situation. After much difficulty finding a therapist who knew more about the subject than I did, I began therapy. After screening me thoroughly, he determined that I was a TS. So what else is new! (See "Playing the Transsexual Game - Part I", Tapestry # 49.) I didn't really need another opinion that I was a TS. I really didn't know where to go from there. Karen and I had struggled hard to make things work, but I hurt so much inside.

My therapist and I embarked on a course of developing a high honesty profile. That is a new method of living your life where honesty is the rule of the day. The reason for this course of action was to relieve the guilt pressure caused by overt and covert lying throughout the years. We're all guilty of it. If you're in the closet, you lie every day. You may think you are just protecting yourself and your loved ones. However, withholding the truth by omission is lying. We are chameleons! Chameleons are a noble species that have survived millions of years by adapting to the environment by never showing their true colors. This coloring was a very serious problem

Carl/Cheryl Costa

when it came to getting at the root of things in therapy. One day I started saying, "This is what I wanted to say, but this is what really happened." Gradually I began saying what really happened. This was a very painful period because occasionally I would be asked a question where I really should have protected my answer, too, but didn't.

This applies not only to crossdressing issues but also to work issues. We've all been asked at one time or another by the boss to keep quiet or stretch a point in a meeting or negotiation. I found it too painful to do so, and told my boss the problem. He was already very aware of my lifestyle and very supportive of my leadership efforts. The result was a new job where it was important that the

facts and information be always factual. In this job it was important that I told it like it was.

This honesty was also very painful when family members asked me my intentions and I gave them an honest answer. At least the best answer at the time.

Depression was beginning to set in because I truly believed that I was in a no-win situation. If I transitioned, I lost; if I stayed the way I was, I lost. My therapist and I decided to explore options that you rarely hear about in the TS equation. Alternative lifestyles, non-op approaches, and, of course, standard TS operative approaches. I began taking massive doses of Depo-Provera, a female hormone that would de-masculinize, but not feminize me. My testosterone levels were suppressed to pre-puberty levels.

My head started to clear of the male hormone induced distractions. Concentration became easier, deep thought and recollection became possible. For the first time in years I could think clearly. This I'm told is a very common, positive side effect of castration therapy; a therapy that is commonly used to treat sex offenders. In fact, I took my early shots in a clinic for sex offenders since it was less expensive by 200%.

This brings up a point about treatment. I know so many TS's who are fearful of association with other psychosexual models. Several TS's I know were disgusted that I was associating with, "those sex offenders (S.O.'s)".

I've found that communication is a wonderful thing. Most of the S.O.'s that I met while I was at the clinic, felt very much the say we do, trapped. They found a treatment that was helping them to find answers to questions as well as peace of mind. You hear about chemical castration in the press; debated whether it's a suitable and fair punishment. The people I met were in two camps - the punishment group and the saving grace group. When they first started taking Depo-Provera, it was a punishment. Later as they found peace within themselves, they became members of the saving grace group. Many of them, like myself, dreaded ever coming off the "saving nectar." We were all finding peace in ourselves!

My therapy went on to find roots to my typically TS body image problems - genitals, breasts, etc. Then one day 12 weeks into deep therapy and self-reflection, I found a seemingly meaningless childhood memory that was the beginning of my deep desire to be rid of my genitals. That brought down the first of many personality drive complexes that were confusing me. One by one the hang-ups were disappearing, and I was becoming a new person with different drives, goals and values.

Since that day in early April 1987, I have, with the help of my therapist, cleaned house so to speak. My wife and I have found a new beginning with each other. I have adapted to a new and better, though sometimes difficult, lifestyle - that of an androgyne.

During therapy I acknowledged that there was a male component. This part of me needed being as much as my female side. I started going to the female to male TS support group to rediscover my male side. In short time a painful though thoughtful decision was made to blend Carl and Cheryl into one whole person, Carl-Cheryl or "CC". This meant that Carl would become more feminine and Cheryl became more masculine. Her clothes were my clothes and my clothes hers; they were our clothes. I now have a perm and my hair is longer. Both of my ears are pierced and I wear stud-style earrings to work. I dress as a male at work, though I really don't own any male clothes, except two three-piece suits that I wear to funerals.

Outside of work I dress as I please. I'm comfortable, and for the first time in my life, I'm happy. It was difficult a first to wear culottes and a fuchsia top with no make-up. I don't try to pass anymore. I'm not trying to be read as a woman, though I do get more "ma'am's" now than I did when I tried to pass. I do get a few, "Here's your soda, Sir, Ma'am, or whatever you are," from some fast food servers.

Some TS's I know are giving me a great deal of credit for exploring; others think I backed out to save my relationship. In a sense I did back out. I backed out of a "no-win situation" to finding a winning combination that works for me and my wife. I've changed a lot, inside and outside. The hormone changed my hips and breasts quite a bit.

For those who want to know, our sex life is just fine. It is very difficult and it's a lot of work, but it's fine.

In closing I wish to say that the use of Provera at the dosages mentioned previously is dangerous if not supervised by an endocrinologist and your therapist. The physical side-effects are incredible and need to be monitored closely. In addition, as with all hormones, the really long term effects are not known, especially at these intake levels. This is NOT a treatment to do with your family General Practitioner or with Black Market hormones.

I truly believe that therapy can work wonders if you work at it and give it a chance. Too many people I know who try therapy don't work at it hard enough. Go deep inside yourself and be honest. Don't be afraid of trying something new. Most of all, DON'T label yourself. If you're like me, there's really not a label for what we are. Recently asked if I was a TS or TV I responded, "I'm a TD - Tasmanian Devil."

COMMENTARY:

DEFINITIONS, ISSUE #51

By: Anne-Marie, Tri-Ess NH 1285 B

Dear Editor

Your careful and searching article on Definitions in #51 of the Tapestry is full of thought-provoking things. For me, as an old word buff, it stimulates thoughts of all the possible terms for crossdressers and the problems pertaining thereto. We all share the desire to avoid all those terms with pejorative connotations, which are many.

From my first encounter, I've been troubled by the term that Virginia coined, 'femmiphile', on at least two grounds. In the first place, I see no merit in the double 'm' which must have come from the French word 'femme', with which we have all become familiar. That term, however, came from the Latin, 'femina', with which we are perhaps less familiar. Most other words in our English vocabulary that are so derived, retain the single 'm'. That, however, is not my only problem. To me, the coining of worlds derived half-and half from Latin and Greek, like 'femiphile', even with a single 'm', are 'bastard neologisms' that should only survive if not replaceable by all-Latin, or all-Greek.

In this vein, then, I might suggest 'gynophile', or if you prefer, 'gynecophile' as something more linguistically acceptable, if less easy off the tongue. But other problems remain.

A bit of a search in any dictionary will suggest that the suffix, '-phile' has overtones of an abnormal love or lust, and I think that either of the two terms mentioned above would suggest to most readers an abnormal love, or lust for women! I think, surely I hope, that this does not describe the average crossdresser. We are not to be described as woman-lovers, though most are, and '-philes', either 'femi-' or 'gyno-' are described by such a term. Surely what we seek, as a rule, is to <u>be</u> like women, to <u>look</u> like women, to <u>feel</u> like women, and in general emulate feminine qualities. We may be girlish, womanish, feminine or perhaps 'effeminate'. (The latter term loses its unhappy implications.) What we need, I think, is something with that meaning.

Unhappily, although exposed to a few years of Latin in my course through the educational mill, I did badly, and at the same time never was exposed to Greek. However, during a career in Medicine, I got a sort of feeling for the coined words that abound in that profession. Although I am surely not the gal to make well-founded criticisms, I would like to make a couple of suggestions, hoping that we have some more erudite sisters that can work on the problem.

I find that the suffix '-oid' has the meaning of 'like' or 'similar to', and would have to accept an allegation that I am 'gynecoid' (like a woman, or so I hope). Perhaps I would accept the term 'philogyne' as a means of avoiding the suffix '-phile'.

Perhaps we should never have left 'eonism' behind, since it does honor the memory of one of the most whole-hearted, unabashed, and successful crossdressers of whom we know. And, actually, if we are to borrow 'en femme' from the French I would not be adverse to being called 'un travesti', although strictly speaking, 'travestissement', in French, refers to disguise in general, without necessary gender-related overtones.

You mention 'paraculture', which is tempting, and no dictionary that I have access to defines it, but I suspect that it should refer to almost any of the myriad subcultural groups in our society, and would thus be a bit non-descriptive of our sisters. Perhaps, in this vein, we are 'paragynes', but I've not yet seen or heard such a word. (Again, it has the problem of mixed Latin-Greek derivations.)

Perhaps, after all this, we should be content to stay in simple English, and be plain crossdressers.

Affectionately,
Anne-Marie B. NH-1285

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(Roger Peo is a Board certified sexologist and president of 'Androgyny Unlimited. If you have subjects you would like Roger to write about or questions you want answered privately, you may write to him at: P.O. Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602 914-462-7455 All communications are confidential.)

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#2)

"Suggestions on who and when to tell about cross-dressing"

One of the problems faced by all cross-dressers is who to tell about their needs. The next problem is when and how to make this disclosure. It seems to me that it is neither desirable nor necessary for most cross-dressers to come completely out of the closet. However, opening the door and letting in some light is necessary for support. Telling someone about your cross-dressing is scary and risky, for there is always the chance that the relationship will be irretrievably damaged by your disclosure. There is no simple or right way to go about telling someone but there are some guidelines that can be helpful.

First, how to decide who to tell..... A good rule of thumb is that it is necessary to confide in persons who can be effected by your needs. This can be a wife or girl-friend or perhaps some close relatives or friends. A guiding principle in making the decision is whether a particular relationship is being influenced by your need to hide your cross-dressing. For example, if you become moody and withdrawn because you can not dress when you feel the need and you can not explain this to someone in an intimate relationship with you, that can be an indication that you should confide in her.

When to make this revelation..... It is usually advisable to do this as early in the relationship as seems possible. For some relationships this might be in the first month and for others it might be in the first year. The longer that you wait before divulging the information, the more the other person can feel deceived when they find out. This feeling of deceit can cause them to react with anger and rejection. Further, they may feel they can no longer trust you. The exact timing is up to you. I have found from my study that once both people are committed to the relationship it is nearly too late to easily make the 'confession'. This is especially true if the relationship is leading toward marriage. Since the only 'cure' for cross-dressing is acceptance and working out appropriate times for its expression, going into a long-term intimate relationship without working out these details can lead to significant problems later. Telling your own children is a very special situation and should most probably be delayed until they are in their teens or later. There are no studies that show the effects of telling young children but this information adds to the many other things they have to deal with as they mature.

How to gently provide this information to the other person is probably the most difficult part. You -- the cross-dresser -- will most probably be very nervous and on the defensive. Just think how the other person must feel. She (or he) most probably knew something was wrong but most probably had no idea what it was. Then too, she probably has very little understanding of cross-dressing and may confuse it with either transsexualism or homosexuality or both. YOU have to be sensitive to HER needs. Do not try to bury her with information but answer her questions truthfully and simply. Make the disclosure in stages, for the worst thing you can do is to overwhelm her. Sometimes pictures are a good place to begin. Be very sensitive about letting her see you cross-dressed for the first time -- which MUST be done gently and preferably in a private situation. While the first time may be the hardest, she will have to see you cross-dressed several times in private before either of you will know what her reactions and feelings really are.

If you follow all the above guidelines you have a chance that the other person will at least be tolerant of your cross-dressing. Keep in mind that even if you do all of the above, she may not want to see you dressed or participate in any of the activities that involve cross-dressing. Here is where you must be sensitive to her and not press for acceptance or participation.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#6)

"Wives of cross-dressers - Catch 22 situation"

This month's column is written for you, the woman in relationship with a cross-dresser. I will describe

the "Catch-22" situation that you can get into when you learn that the man in your life likes to wear women's clothing.

Somewhere in the past, your part-ner told you about his need to cross-dress. If you are typical, you knew very little about cross-dressing and what you did know probably had the drag-queen image that is associated with homosexuality. Although you may have been confused and threatened when you learned of his cross-dressing, you decided to stay in the relationship. You found out that your partner is neither gay nor a transsexual. You examined your relationship with this man who is important to you and decided that his cross-dressing was relatively harmless and even perhaps, at times, fun for you. Because you love your partner, you decided to be supportive of his cross-dressing needs. All the while, you were still worried that someone might discover his cross-dressing. You were concerned with the social issues as well.

Anyway, and for whatever reasons, you supported and perhaps encouraged your partner to cross-dress. From your partner's point of view, this support and encouragement probably came across as total acceptance of his cross-dressing, so he may have in-creased his frequency of dressing and also probably began spending money on 'her' wardrobe. What can happen at this stage is that his cross-dressing totally dominated your relationship. Even if he was not cross-dressed, he was probably thinking about it or buying women's clothes.

This period, called a 'blow-out' can be self-limiting. If he can wear women's clothes almost whenever he wants to, the novelty and excitement wears off. In other situations, this high frequency of cross-dressing will not drop off. It often takes quite a while before he will cross-dress less often, perhaps a year or longer.

Now you can be in a no-win situation. If you want to do something be-sides interact with your partner while he is cross-dressed, he may feel that you are not supportive. If you say nothing, the resentment you feel to-wards his all-consuming passion can build up and come out in other ways. Neither is good for your relationship.

In such a situations, you are isolated and may have no ally. Other wives of cross-dressers can be sympathetic but not helpful. What can help is an intermediary who can assist you both in balancing out your individual needs so that both of you can 'win'. While many therapists have little experience with cross-dressing, it should be possible to find one who deals well with relationship issues. As with so many other things, communication is the issue. Your partner has to understand that you are not totally against his cross-dressing but that you simply can not allow it to dominate your relationship. You have to believe that you do not have to feel guilty because you have needs. With sensitivity on the part of both partners and a willingness to communicate, compromises can be worked out. Cross-dressing can be handled within a relationship, but it takes time and a lot of work.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#19)

"When is therapy appropriate?"

The effectiveness of therapy in cross-dressing situations has always been a hotly debated topic. For many, it would seem that if a cross-dresser wanted to stop 'badly enough' it is simply be a case of will power (or maybe won't power). Tied to this thought is the idea that cross-dressing is 'un-natural' and/or wrong. So counseling is seen as a 'magic wand' that will force changes in a person's behavior. No therapist has that kind of skill or power.

Cross-dressing behavior is not wrong but its effect on the person or others can be damaging. Virginia Prince said that, "Cross-dressers are statistically unusual but that does not make them abnormal." So, when is counseling appropriate?

There is no simple answer about the need for professional help. In a simplistic way the need for counseling can be compared to a need for financial counseling. If you can not pay your immediate bills and the sheriff is at the door, you have serious financial problems. If you are paying your bills, then you are not in immediate trouble yet your retirement in-come may be not be adequate.

So it is with counseling. When a crisis occurs, help is needed right then. Therapy in a crisis is usually directed toward solving the immediate problem. There are situations when a person simply wants to improve their overall situation. Counseling for such conditions is usually more of a long term process and may proceed at a much slower pace because exploration of many alternatives is often a part of the process.

There will be times when it is obvious that a cross-dresser can not solve his problems. When he and his wife are having difficulties over cross-dressing issues or when the agonies of not being able to cross-dress are interfering with other portions of his life then professional help is probably needed.

Even if there is not an immediate crisis, there can be hidden problems. Cross-dressing can effect self-image or cause guilt. These may not be immediate problems but may create an uneasiness which interferes with daily functioning.

Therapy may be of little use if the cross-dresser is forced to go. For example, if his wife feels that the only way the marriage can continue is for her husband to be

'cured' by going to a counselor. He will go but the cure his wife wants will not be found. Counseling is effective in this situation only if both people are willing to work out the problems together. Therapy can help the man in this situation learn to modify his behavior and make it less of an issue with his wife. This usually means that the cross-dressing goes under-ground often with the wife's silent approval.

Many transgendered persons have a great deal of theoretical knowledge about their situation, but that does not mean that he can determine what is the best course of action for him. I do not believe a person can be sufficiently objective about their own situation. I have had several heated exchanges with transgendered people who seem to feel that they know all there is to know about their situation and simply want my signature so they can pursue their predefined course of action.

Therapy provides support and insight to help a person solve their problems, but it is not magic. It requires work and a willingness to change to be successful.

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK (#21)

"Advise to cross-dressers about wives"

Many of the organizations in the transgender sub-culture are concerned about couples in which the man is a cross-dresser. There are wives groups and couples groups, often accompanied by discussions on how a woman can be supported in dealing with her cross-dressing partner.

Because of my involvement with your sub-culture I receive newsletters from many different organizations. Recently I received one from CHIC -- a California-based transvestite support group. In that issue there appeared an article written by a wife of a cross-dresser and addressed to other wives. She called it "The Five Basics for Good Communication". I want to share her ideas but re-focus them to you, the cross-dresser, to highlight ways you can interact with your wife.

The first point was **Discuss, Don't Attack**. Attacking your wife when she is trying to deal with your cross-dressing will do little to resolve a problem. Keep in mind that she is trying to deal with her own feelings as well as yours. By trying to understand what she is feeling through a discussion you can often find a way to resolve the situation.

Next was **Keep Your Voice Low and Pleasant.** Raising your voice or shouting is a sure way to turn the other person off. No one likes to be yelled at.

Perhaps the most crucial point was **Stick to the Subject**. Deal with one issue at a time. Don't use the conversation to dredge up all the things you are unhappy about.

Listen to Her Complaints was next on the list. Your wife's needs and concerns are important. You have to <u>really listen</u> to what she is telling you. Find out what is bothering her and be willing to change so that her needs are met.

Last, **Don't Make Demands**. You do not respond well when someone orders you to do something. The same is true for her.

To this list, I add one more, **Be Willing to Re-Negotiate**. While you and your wife may reach an agreement on some issue, it is possible that the situation may create feelings for her that are very uncomfortable. She may need to change the previous agreement to keep her balance. Be willing to change.

Nothing is magic. Any relation-ship will have problems that need to be worked out. The lady who made the above suggestions put down in a very straightforward way some very basic truths about working out problems in a relationship.

Most of the time it seems that you are trying to get the women to accept cross-dressing. It sounds like a one way street, she has to accept without question and the cross-dresser does not have to change at all. Now I know that cross-dressing is a fixed part of a transvestite's personality and will not go away. That does not mean that it should be out of control. In any relationship, there is always a give and take -- a balance. That means control and sensitivity to the other person's needs. Such a balance and consideration requires under-standing and concern from both people. That takes work but it can be done. The ideas expressed above can help.

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NOT QUITTING THE GAME - JUST SWITCHING SIDES

Rupert Raj, BA, PR, Director, GENDER WORKER

As I was nearing my last birthday, I decided to give myself a long-overdue present - one of time; time just for me. For the first time in ten years, I decided to put myself first, before it was too late and I died of overwork. We all reach the crossroads at sometime or other during the course of our lives. This was mine.

I finally faced the fact that if I did not give up my involvement with the Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation (which I founded in December 1981), that the chronic burn-out syndrome from which I had been suffering since May 1986, would ultimately turn me into a "zombie". Indeed, it had already taken a serious toll on my physical and emotional health and was not placing my very job in serious jeopardy. My family doctor had warned me about the stress, had urged me to eliminate some of my commitments beginning in 1986, and had done an electrocardiogram on me the year before.

If you do not know what "Burn-Out Syndrome" entails, I recommend the book "BURN-OUT" by Dr. Herbert Freudenberger, the psychologist who coined the phrase. To give you a rough idea of what I and so many other resource providers to the transgender community have gone through, I'll quote from the book: "A Burn-Out is someone in a state of fatigue or frustration brought about by devotion to a cause, way of life, or relationship that failed to produce the expected reward." "Burn-Out; to deplete oneself, to exhaust one's physical and mental resources. To wear oneself out by excessively striving to reach some unrealistic expectation imposed by oneself or the values of society."

The catalyst, though minor in nature, signified to me the culmination of months, even years, of futility of trying to provide an educational resource and a communications medium to the transsexual world. I had always been a fastidious perfectionist and wanted my newsletter or magazine to be perfect. Yet, when I went to pick up the latest (and final) issue of "Metamorphosis Magazine" (the first issue to appeal to a mixed readership of men and women) the printer had produced it according to the wrong specifications. I was devastated! At that moment, I realized with a flash of insight, that my long-term aspiration to one day have enough money to establish gender centers or clinics around the world would always be beyond my grasp. I also realized that my short-term hope of acquiring sufficient funds to guarantee me a full-time salary for my duties as Executive Director and Magazine Editor was equally unrealistic and unobtainable.

Rupert Raj, Dir. 'Gender Worker'
(IFGE Convention '88)
(Photo: Renee Chevalier)

I decided it was time to take a break, a therapeutic leave of absence in order to restore my failing health and repair my shattered dreams. The only way that I could make this a reality, was to relinquish, in its entirety, my responsibilities to Metamorphosis. Also I was tired of playing a wear game of "cat-and-mouse" with the provincial ministry, of endlessly trying to motivate some of my co-workers, and of constantly needing to be a surrogate parent, counsellor and/or friend to many members of the TS community. How I would have enjoyed an evening out to dinner or a movie!

As a result, I tendered my resignation at our March 26, 1988 Board Meeting at which time the five directors presented voted to dissolve the corporation because they felt they did not have sufficient human resources to carry on in my absence. At our final Board Meeting on May 21, 1988, we made all the necessary arrangements to legally "wind down" the organization and disburse its assets.

It was very hard giving up "my baby" (the organization I conceived and nurtured into its "adolescence") as

a mother does her child. So now, as a parent must let his teenage children leave home when the time comes, I also had to let go of this entity that has been so much a part of my life. This was not an easy decision; but I really see no other alternative if I am to maintain my sanity and my livelihood. The organization that at one time had been the very purpose of my existence had by now become a millstone around my neck.

So, I'm taking a breather - but I'm not quitting the game entirely. I'm still a player in this business of "gender dysphoria", but I'm changing the rules and switching sides. That is I will no longer act in a peer-support role, but only in a professional capacity, as a counsellor, educator and researcher. To this end I registered my own resource service GENDER WORKER, with the Ontario Government last fall. yet in my new business venture, I'll set my own deadlines, my own pace and standards of productivity, establish my own priorities in terms of activities and projects and select only those people as clients with whom I wish to work.

Some of the tangible projects I plan to undertake include:

1. an ANTHOLOGY of TS, TV and TG verse (to be used perhaps as a teaching tool for helping professionals who wish to distinguish the three populations for purposes of psychological evaluation and psychiatric diagnosis;

2. a practical MANUAL for F-M TS's on various aspects of passing hormones, surgery, legal and social aspects, relationships, resources, etc.;

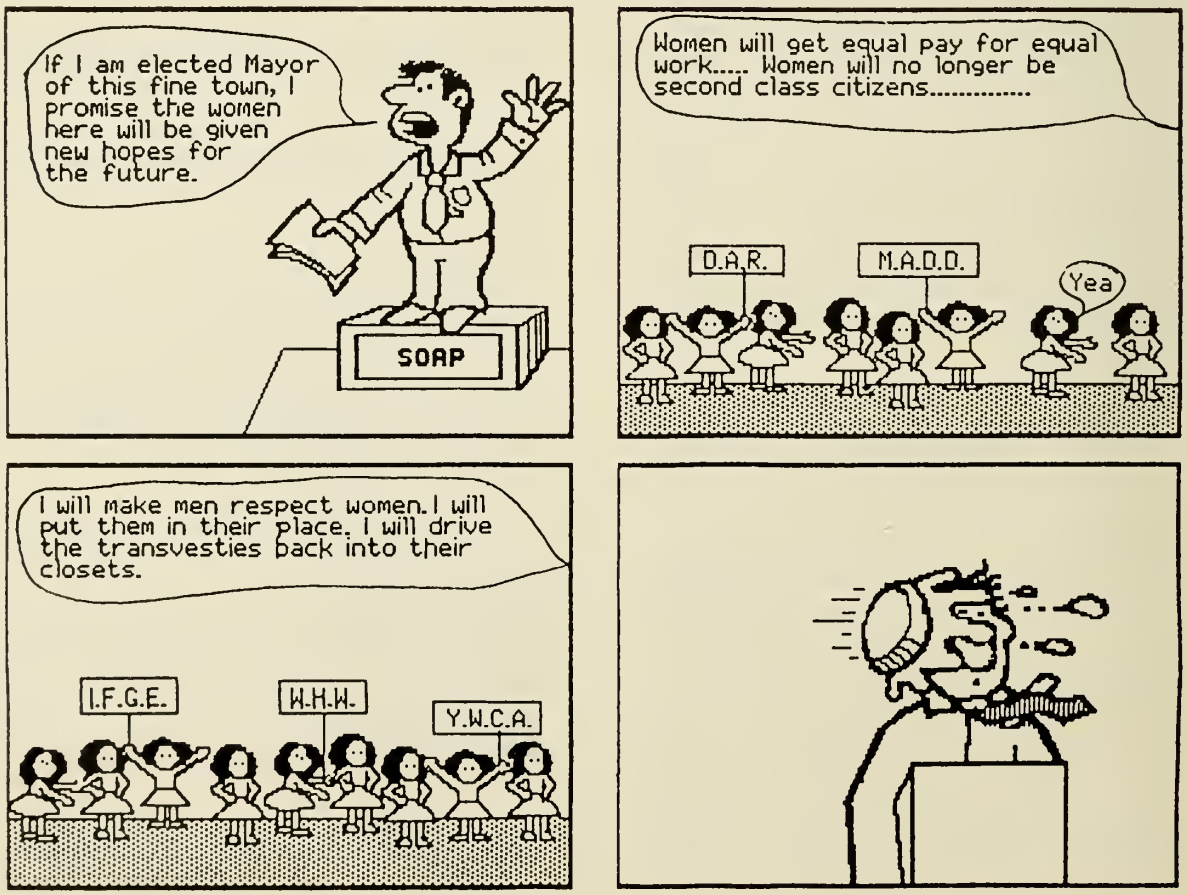
3. a comprehensive RESOURCE DIRECTORY (listing the names of various classifications of helping professionals and of TS resource providers throughout Canada, the U.S.A. and possibly abroad;

4. a helpful HANDBOOK for non-professional resource providers serving the transgender community (e.g. support group leaders, newsletter/magazine editors, peer-counsellors); and,

5. my PERSONAL MEMOIRS (by the time I get the four preceding projects completed, I should have reached 40 - the perfect time to begin reviewing my life on

Just Deserts

by Linda



(Cartoon: Linda Buten, CrossPort)

paper in order to share my perspective with the public).

Additional services (some already available) will include:

1. confidential COUNSELLING (including information/referrals in person or by letter) for male and female TS's, TG's, TV's, and significant others;

2. educational WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS for researching and helping professionals and students, and also for gender-dysphoric consumers;

3. a local LENDING LIBRARY (currently books and later videos) on various aspects of TSism, TVism, androgyny, gender-reassignment, sex and gender;

4. a series of INFORMATION PACKAGES for: a) professionals and students' b) female-to-male TS's; c) male-to-female TS's, (and likely for male TV's);

5. a bi-monthly NEWSLETTER for helping professionals, lay resource providers and interested others (first issue due in June).

On a more ethereal side, I plan to double my efforts in the areas of:

1. LOBBYING (e.g. to appeal to the Canadian and provincial Governments to include "gender identity", "gender dysphoria" and "sex reassignment" as prohibited grounds of discrimination under the Canadian Charter of Right and Freedoms; and, to appeal to the provincial medical health insurance plans to cover the cost of electrolysis, speech therapy for M-F TS's);

2. NETWORKING (with gender identity programs, sexological societies, sex researchers, counsellors, therapists and other helping professionals; TS and TV support groups, educational/ informational/referral organizations, magazine/newsletter editors, peer-counsellors, and political activists).

In short, I'll be contributing to the professional and transgender communities in even more productive ways than I have in the past. And I hope to cross paths with many of you again, in renewed spirits.

MAJORITY OR MINORITY

-By: Paula Louise Riordan

In his latest book, The Third Wave, Alvin Toffler of "Future Shock" fame propounds a very interesting thesis that the Industrial Age is fast coming to an end, and civilization is at the brink of a new age. This new age, which is already dawning and which is bound to happen regardless of what anyone will try to do about it, will just as radically effect the basic values and institutions of society as did the Industrial Age when it supplanted the Agricultural Age about 300 years ago.

One of the many characteristics of this new age, as Toffler imagines it, and one which has given me considerable cause for reflection is that, paradoxically, minorities will be in the majority. No longer will society be able to impose a rigid standardization, a monolithic stereotype upon one and all. No longer will any one set of modifiers be able to describe the proverbial "man on the street," the "girl next door," the "businessman," the "housewife," the "consumer," the "rank and file." Each of these types will have so many variations that blanket assumptions about them will no longer be meaningful.

Everyone already knows that today the housewife may really be a house-husband, or even a robot; and we who crossdress know that the girl next door may not be exactly what "she" seems to be.

At first I was pleased to think that perhaps at last, minorities are going to have their place in the sun. After all, who is a more minor minority than crossdressers. However, my initial enthusiasm rapidly dissipated when I began to reflect on the uniqueness of our minority situation. When it comes to racial and ethnic minorities, the handicapped, the elderly, and even women, people will generally admit that these folks have a fundamental right to exist as they do. People will even add "by the grace of God." Here lies what I believe to be the root of the problem for us. People simply will not allow that we have any right to exist, and certainly not by the grace of God.

When people become aware that there are those who crossdress, their reactions may range anywhere from dismay to ridicule on one hand, to persecution and violence on the other. Very few, even among the professionals, are able to accept it or even to remain philosophically indifferent.

One psychiatrist blandly pronounced me to be a pervert and refused to discuss the matter further. Another, a well-meaning chap, thought that, like alcoholism and drug addiction, if I could only "go on the wagon" for a few months, Paula would evaporate like dew warmed by

the sun. Then there was the clergyman who believed that through prayer, repentance and conversion, the grace of God would heal my spiritual infirmities, for after all, "nothing is impossible with God."

The common theme running through all these assumptions is clear: You are not supposed to be this way, and your task is to change yourself and become "normal." It is this element of "free choice" that becomes the cruelest indictment of us by the majority of ordinary people and which makes it seem impossible for our minority status to be widely accepted. It appears that most people believe that crossdressing is for us an arbitrary, frivolous and capricious free choice.

It is only in the writings of knowledgeable and sympathetic authors that we ever read the dictum, "they crossdress because they need to crossdress." The fact that even we find it hard to articulate why we need to crossdress doesn't help our situation. It would be not only trite but also inaccurate to conclude these reflections with the once clever but now overworked discovery: for those who crossdress, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not, no explanation is possible. Students of psychology continue to hypothesize and some interesting explanations abound. But crossdressers know that no explanation has ever explained us away. I suspect that even in Toffler's Third Wave of Civilization, we will continue to be the most enigmatic minority.

A SECOND OPINION

By: Louise L. Raeder

As various TS organizations and publications are started for the support of us and our sisters (and brothers), the term "helping professionals" is quickly becoming a household word as to imply that anyone suffering from gender dysphoria can simply seek these people out and they will be helped professionally to deal successfully with their condition.

A very idealistic concept to be sure, but let's be realistic for a moment. I personally have been seeing some of these "helping professionals" for some time now, and all I really have to show for it are a lot of cancelled checks and a dwindling bank account.

Considering that some of these professionals have fees as much as $125 per session and insist on seeing their patients weekly, that's $6500 annually MINIMUM (as required in the "Standards of Care"), adding to that the fees of other professionals as a co=requisite (i.e. psychological testing, etc.).

In addition to all that, there are the expenses of an endocrinologist, electrologist, hormones, clothing and accessories, cosmetics, and any other subsequent expenses such as a lawyer as in my case. (I was recently fired from my job of 11 years for presenting myself as the woman I am in a gradual process that took 2 years.) Those are only some of the expenses related to dealing only with the condition of gender dysphoria. All of the other expenses remain as well - mortgage, utility bills, transportation and related costs. That's only an example of this unmarried person's expenses.

While trying to meet these expenses, we are also trying to actually save enough money for our S.R.S. so that we can achieve ultimate congruity, our very reason for living.

Although these aspects of the dilemma are well known by many of the "helping professionals", they are not well appreciated since these people know that transsexuals will usually do virtually anything to obtain approval for S.R.S. and their urgent needs can make them a victim of exploitation. Unfortunately, the entire process of applying the "Standards of Care" as enforced presently, often becomes counter-productive as far as the transsexual is concerned in that he or she can end up bankrupt, unable to afford the cost of the surgery, living on public aid, unable to find work and often resorting to prostitution or other illegal activities just to be able to provide meals. The extreme depression and total despair of such situations has pushed many of our sisters (and brothers) over the edge into mental institutions, jail and all too often suicide.

When a person discovers gender dysphoria in themselves, it doesn't matter whether that person earns $100,000 annually or is unemployed and lives in a slum. The agony of enduring the condition and the hopes of correcting it are the same as we are all human beings. As such we are entitled to human rights, the most important of all being the right of choice.

The bottom line is that if we allow our destiny to be dictated by those who may have some knowledge of our condition but no compassion for it, then in essence we are saying that we are incapable of making a good judgment where our lives are concerned. Although we are supposed to be responsible, mature adults, we will accept being treated as children once again with one exception -- in more ways than one, this time it will cost us more than we realize.

SOMETHING BAD THAT DIDN'T HAPPEN

By: Stephanie Davis

For a period of time, I considered the causes of transvestism intently. I explored the outward realm of what others said and wrote about it. I explored the inward realm of what my own personality and perceptions were. Eventually the intense period subsided and was replaced by other pressing mental occupations. One thing though which became quite obvious to me was that the genesis of TVism is often something bad that didn't happen.

I've read enough of the absurd and ludicrous theories put forth by psychological professionals and others as explanation; theories usually based on the assumption that something pathological happened in a person's development, either pre- or post-natal. Most of these theories are espoused by a member of the (seeming) majority who are not TVs, or won't admit it if they are. It became clear to me that a non-TV who speculates is often actually apologizing for himself.

Our world is based on the perception of dualities, the divisions of defined qualities standing as opposites to each other. All of these dualities are ultimately false, arising in the mind often during very early development as mental constraints that dampen sensitivity. The perception of dualities creates a world of conflict - and attraction. All the violence and turmoil and dynamic motivation of the world is based ont these. For example: male and female, pious and heretic, masculine and feminine, Eastern and Western, us and them. Some of these are patently shallow, while others are extremely difficult to see through (male and female, for instance). There have always been individuals who did not, in the course of their development, adopt the true perception of one or more of these dualities even though they adopted the values of their society-at-large. These individuals, then, spend a period of time at odds with their society and perhaps even themselves over such issues.

When I look at myself, I can see that I never "bought" the stance that the repertoire of the behaviors that young girls learned and appropriated could be something that I could not appropriate. This is actually true. All males are certainly capable of it. In my own case, even though I tended to be attracted to those qualities as opposite myself, I could never really accept an attraction being based solely on such external things. As a result I have been moved at times to emulate feminine behavior to relieve the conflict in holding a pose I didn't absolutely believe in. I never had a quarrel with the apparent fact of two kinds of people with two kinds of genitals and reproductive functions; it was the cultural "stuff" learned well after birth that didn't sink in. I am a lucky person to have remained sensitive in this way, but how hard it has been to have been that way in apparent conflict with most of the rest of society.

I will maintain, therefore, that if you are a male who sees the motivations and styles of living of women as being as much constitutionally unlike yourself as the female genitalia, then you are a product of something bad that happened in your development. It is your orientation that is doomed to obsolescence, not mine. I hold myself in high esteem, even as I continue to ask why I've felt that I must struggle for dignity and acceptance.

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thru
Sunday, October 16th
1988

Tiffany Club Wives Support Group Outing
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(508) 358-2305
(617) 894-8340

MISC. PHOTOS

Ren'ee's Wedding (Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

Merissa Lynn, JoLynne White, Niela Miller
Tiffany's P-town Outing '88
(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

BULLETINS, NOTICES, NEWS

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS 1988 - 1989

OCTOBER 14-23, 1988: 'FANTASIA FAIR'.

14TH annual Fair held in Provincetown, MA. The Fair is a unique opportunity to live, learn and explore diverse aspects of alternative gender life styles. Learning, confidence, fun! Programs for spouses & girlfriends.

Fantasia Fair, Lincolnia Sta., P.O. Box 11254, Alexandria, VA 22312

OCTOBER 14-16, 1988: TIFFANY CLUB WIVES SUPPORT GROUP OUTING

4th annual outing to Provincetown, MA. Couples only.

TC-WSG, P.O. Box 266, Allston, MA 02134 (508) 358-2305 (617) 894-8340

NOVEMBER 16-20TH: HOLIDAY EN FEMME

An annual event sponsored by Tri-Ess. This year's event will be hosted by the Chi Chapter of Chicago at a first class hotel near O'Hare airport. For Tri-Ess members and their significant others.

Tri-Ess/Holiday En Femme, P.O. Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690 (312) 364-9514 (6-9 pm)

SATURDAY, 10 AM - 5 PM, DECEMBER 10, 1988: WORKSHOP - CREATING A BALANCE WITH THE MALE & FEMALE WITHIN

A 7-hour workshop for crossdressers to learn how to love and accept yourself exactly as your are.

JoLynne White, (212) 675-0204 12-6 pm M-F

FEBRUARY 23-25, 1989: The first annual "TEXAS 'T' PARTY".

A 3-day weekend 'en femme' at the beautiful Sheraton/Seven Oaks Resort in San Antonio, TX. $75 (not including accommodations).

Boulton & Park Society, P.O. Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252 (512) 657-2540

APRIL 4-9, 1989: 3rd annual 'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER' CONVENTION.

To be held at the San Franciscan hotel in down town San Francisco.

'Coming Together' is sponsored by the International Foundation for Gender Education on behalf of the TV/TS Community as a whole, and those persons serving or affected by that Community. The Convention's objectives are to promote self-validation and self-respect, develop a sense of togetherness and provide an in-depth educational opportunity. (Tend to the business of the Community, and have fun doing it.)

'Coming Together', c/o I.F.G.E., P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 358-2305 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays)

MAY 12-14, 1989: WEEKEND EN FEMME IN HOUSTON

The Gulf Coast TV Chapter and the Tau Chi Chapter are planning a weekend en femme in the Gulf Coast area.

Thorne & Associates, Box 441754, Houston, TX 77244

MAY 12-14, 1989: SPRING 1989 POCONO FANTASY FESTIVAL

Details pending

Fem Fashions, PH B, 157 W 57th St, NYC, NY 10019 (212) 582-6823, Muriel Olive

MAY 30 - JUNE 5, 1989: TIFFANY CLUB'S P-TOWN OUTING

9th annual outing sponsored by the Tiffany Club. The primary purpose is to have fun and enjoy P-town. Over 100 participants attend each year. Parties, dinners, and of course P-town.

Tiffany Club, Box 266, Wayland, MA 01778 (508) 358-2305

JUNE 7-11, 1989: "BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE"

7th annual 'Be All', co-sponsored by Chi Chapter, Paradise Club, Crossroads, and TransPitt. Aperaging 190+ participants, it is the largest funcition of its kind. Includes a beauty course, workshops, parties, outings, dinners, etc.

Chi Chapter, P.O. Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040 (312) 364-9514

OCTOBER 5-8, 1989: 4 DAY / 3 NIGHT BAHAMAS CRUISE - FOR COUPLES ONLY

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I.F.G.E. PUBLICATIONS - REPRINTS

BACK ISSUES TV-TS TAPESTRY JOURNAL

Issues 50 & 51 $10.00 per copy
Issues 47, 48, & 49 (SOLD OUT)
Issues 40 to 46 $8.00 per copy
Issue 39 $ 6.00 per copy
(# 33 - 38 SOLD OUT) (Issues 1-32 were in newsletter form and are not available)

COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER '87 BOOK OF TRANSCRIPTS $10.00

Contains the keynote speeches of Dr. Virginia Prince and Dr. Roger Peo, and transcripts of every seminar, workshop, and rap group. A most important publication for serious minded persons.

DEFINITIONS $5.00

by Merissa Sherrill Lynn. An in-depth examination of primary terms ('transvestite', transsexual', etc.) and the econdary terms that affect our understanding of the primary terms. The emphasis is on communications rather than universally accepted definitions.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - RELIGION $5.00

A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subject of cross-dressing and religion.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - TRANSSEXUALISM $10.00

A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subjects of transsexualism and female-male crossdressing

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - WIVES & SIGNIFICANT OTHERS $10.00

A collection of editorials, articles, and letters of special interest to wives and significant others of crossdressers.

BEST OF THE TAPESTRY - HORMONES $5.00

A collection of editorials, articles, and letters dealing with the subject of hormones.

THE TRANSVESTITE AND HIS WIVE, by Dr. Virginia Prince $7.00

UNDERSTANDING CROSSDRESSING, by Dr. Virginia Prince $9.00

HOW TO BE A WOMAN THOUGH MALE, by Dr. Virnina Prince $10.00

HANDBOOK FOR SPEAKERS ON CROSSDRESSING, by Dr. Virginia Prince $10.00

ART AND ILLUSION: A GUIDE TO CROSSDRESSING, by JoAnn Roberts $10.00

TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior, by Dr. Richard F. Docter $29.50 plus $2.50 S&H

A "MUST" for anyone who owns a personal library on crossdressing. Represents 10 years of original research.

*** ***All proceeds from the sale of publications and reprints will be placed in I.F.G.E.'s Publications and Educational Resources fund.***

Please allow six to eight weeks for delivery. Make checks and money orders payable to: "IFGE", P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 (617) 894-8340

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* * * * * * * * * * * * *

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RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS WANTED

TSs (pre- and post-op), TGs and other persons who cross-live needed to complete anonymous survey questionnaire for data input into comprehensive TS manual. Please specify M-F or F-M.

Thanks!

Rupert Raj, Exec. Dir. Metamorphosis Foundation, P.O. Box 5963, Stn A, Toronto, ON CAN M5W 1P4

HOUSTON HOLIDAY EN FEMMME

The Gulf Coast TV Chapter, together with Tau Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess, is planning a weekend en femme to be held in Houston during the second weekend of May 1989,

Initial plans call for a Friday evening registration and cocktail reception with dinner and evening activites. Saturday will include seminars, lunch and dinner, and a brunch on Sunday. The cost would be about $100 and $50 a night for the room.

ANNOUNCING THE FORMATION OF THE SUNDAY SOCIETY

We are proud to announce the formation of The Sunday Society, a new branch of the Chicago Gender Society.

Created in an attempt to serve the many needs of our transsexual members and the transsexual community in general, the Sunday Society will have its regular meetings on the third Sunday of each month. Meetings will start at 6:00 p.m. and continue until 8:00 p.m.. The meetings will be hosted by Sheila Sampognaro and Louise Raeder.

Objectives of this new group, both immediate and long range, include providing peer support for pre- and post operative transsexuals, to aid in times of personal and financial stress, and to provide personal or referral basis constructive councelling. Also, the group intends to educate society as to our condition and our needs through any available media, to assist in the formation of a consumer "watchdog" agency, and to work closely with other TS organizations in an effort to strengthen and unify us in our cause.

Sheila L. Sampognaro, 2511 North St Louis, Chicago, IL 60647 (312) 486-3125

Chicago Gender Society, P.O. Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

ANNOUNCEMENT: ACCORDING TO BARRON'S (JULY 18, 1988) AS GOES THE HEMLINES OF CROSSDRESSERS, SO GOES THE STOCK MARKET!

(Joe Queenan, Barron's newspaper)

When men start wearing longer skirts, the Dow Jones goes into a tailspin. It is a well-known fact that market behavior is intimately correlated with the length of women's skirts. What is not so well-known is the the relative performance of the DJIA is directly related to the lengths of skirts worn by men with protfolios averaging $150,000.

Trevor-Howard Ruffin, leisure-sector analyst for the money management firm **TransInvestite**, says that when well-high-heeled cross-dressers begin to wear skimpier fashions, the market invariably tumbles. "What goes up," states the analyst, "simply must come down."

TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP FORMING

(E. PA.) Renaissance was founded as a support group for all transgendered people. Most of its efforts, to date, have been aimed at its transvestite members. That is about to change with the beginning of a Transsexual Rap Group. Paula Keiser, a transsexual who is one of the founding members of Renaissance, has agreed to lead the sessions at the general membership meetings.

The transition process for a transsexual is a difficult time and the charter of this group is to provide practical, useful information and peer support for the emerging TS. Sharing experiences can help to ease the pressue and avoid some of the pitfalls.

If you are a transsexual, or are not sure of your gender choice, and want to participate in this group, contact:

Renaissance, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406 215-640-9449

IT'S THE LAW!

(Seattle, WA) We have won another victory for the rights of transvestites and transsexuals! The Seattle City Council passed the Public Accommodations amendment to the Open Housing Ordinance. This important amendment protects our TC community from discrimination in stores, motels, restaurants, restrooms, and any other establishment operated for public use. We are specifically named in the definition of "sexual orientation" and our right to use anypublic facility within the Seattle city limits is now guaranteed by law.

Seattle holds the place of honor as the first city in the nation to guarantee in law the rights of transvestites and transsexuals. We have worked hard to gain these rights, and while not all of us are prepared to fight openly before the city council, we can all do our part by giving a good example whenever we go out in public. After all, laws do not make acceptance; attitudes make acceptance. We can influence those attitudes by our exemplary behavior.

Copies of the ordinances may be obtained from Janice Van Cleve at: **Emerald City, Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103**

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DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS & SERVICES

NEW ENGLAND

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION: I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, 617-899-2212 or 894-8340. Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: I.F.G.E. is a non-profit educational and service organization designed to serve as an effective communications medium, outreach device, and networking umbrella for the entire TV/TS Community and those affected by that Community.

Services: I.F.G.E. publishes the TV-TS Tapestry Journal and other publications relevant to the TV/TS theme. We sponsor an annual international convention. We serve as an international information and referral clearinghouse, speakers' bureau, and a safe, friendly "drop-in center" for emergency peer counselling and ongoing volunteer work. I.F.G.E. is developing affiliated chapters, sponsoring sociological and cultural research, and organizing a toll-free "hot line".

TAPESTRY PUBLICATIONS: Tapestry, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director.

Nature: Tapestry Publications is a division of I.F.G.E.

Services: The TV/TS Tapestry is I.F.G.E's primary publication. We also publish and market a wide variety of how-to books, presentation transcripts, anthologies of pertinent reprints, directories, and other timely material. Tapestry Publications is designed to be the Community's own publishing house.

TIFFANY CLUB: Tiffany, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, (617) 358-2305. Ms. Katherine Stevens, President.

Nature: The Northeast chapter of the International Foundation for Gender Education (see I.F.G.E.). Tiffany is a non-profit, non-sexual organization offering friendship, education, and support.

Services: Tiffany provides a comprehensive program of services ad activities which include, but are not limited to publishing the Rosebuds newsletter, a safe-house, casual get-togethers, workshops, seminars, beauty courses, a Wives and Significant Others support group, a TS support group, parties, nights on the town, referrals, a speakers bureau, and group outings.

Security: Tiffany welcomes all mature and responsible persons who will exercise good manners and sense, and protect the security and peace-of-mind of all. A person wishing to use Tiffany's facilities or attend a Tiffany function must have met with and been cleared by a member of Tiffany's Screening Committee. Alternately, the applicant must present a letter of introduction from a qualified person to insure that the attendee understands Tiffany's objectives and will comply with Tiffany's code of conduct and security requirements.

TIFFANY CLUB WIVES SUPPORT GROUP: WSG, C/O Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, 617-358-2305. Sydney Tibbetts and Toini McDonald, Co-Directors.

Nature: Affiliated with the Tiffany Club. For those in a committed relationship with members in good standing at the Tiffany Club.

Services: Monthly meetings, one-on-one support, outings, and other events.

Security: See 'Tiffany Club'.

THE OUTREACH INSTITUTE: Outreach, Box 386, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215.

Nature: The Outreach Institute is a non-profit educational corporation. Outreach works primarily with Helping Professionals from the fields of Education, Guidance and Counselling, Therapy, Medicine, Law and Law Enforcement, Nursing, and Human Services.

Services: Outreach's programs include OPERN (Outreach Professional Evaluation and Referral Network), seminars and workshops, a newsletter, Fantasia Fair (a living/learning experience for both male and female crossdressers, transsexuals, and androgynes) and a book and publication service. A catalog of books and reprints is available for $5.00. Outreach also offers two information packets: one each for F-M and for M-F TSs at $25.00 each.

Security: Outreach's programs are highly sophisticated and strictly non-sexual. All participants in any Outreach program are expected to behave accordingly.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TRANSSEXUALS: Karen Aldrich, Box 9238, North Dartmouth, MA 02747-9238.

Nature: Transsexual support.

Services: Group sessions, peer counselling, social events, newsletter, public education, personal needs, guest speakers, referrals.

GENDER INFORMATION SERVICES: Box 9238, N. Dartmouth, MA 02747-9238.

Nature: Information and referral service.

Services: Books and pamphlets for sale. Referral service (fee required).

TRANSSUPPORT: TransSupport, Box 17622, Portland, ME 04101. Diana Obidowski, President.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, their families, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings. Inquire for time and place.

THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB: The XX Club, Box 80690, Forest Park Station, Springfield, MA 01138. Veronica Jean Brown, Director.

Nature: The XX Club is non-profit and non-sexual. It is a social, educational, medical, and outreach organization for persons interested in transsexualism. Friends and relatives are also welcomed, as are all those interested in or involved with the crossdressing community.

Services: The XX Club publishes a monthly newsletter. It holds two meetings each month (second and fourth Saturdays) at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford. The meetings include educational and medical presentations, outreach work, and information distribution. We also have social get-togethers, club parties, and other events.

Security: We place no security restrictions on people who wish to subscribe to our newsletter. However, any person wishing to attend our meetings must meet with and be cleared by a member of our screening committee, or present a letter of introduction from a qualified person to ensure that the attendee understands the XX Club's objectives and goals and that the individual will comply with security requirements and code of conduct. We request that all who attend our functions respect our anonymity.

THE CONNECTICUT VIEW: C/O Denise Mason, Box 2281, Devon, CT 06460.

Nature: "The View" is non-profit and non-sexual but respectful of its members' sexual preferences. Its objectives are to promote and propagate the friendship of the TV/TS community through education, support, and understanding of its members and their families.

Service: Punctual response to all communications, informative monthly newsletter, Wives Support Group, rap sessions, parties at various locations. Wig, makeup, clothing, and demeanor assistance available. Costs shared by participants.

Security: None. House parties on an invitational basis, bar parties open. All members are required to be discreet and tolerant of each other. Common sense and courtesy prevail.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND: GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester, CT 06040. The Reverend Clinton R. Jones, Director; 203-646-8651.

Service: Provides screening for pre-operative TS applicants desirous of hormone therapy. Also provides screening for sex reassignment surgery approval for pre-operative TSs who have met the requirements of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association's Standards of Care.

NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY GENDER ALLIANCE: C/O Fem Fashions, Penthouse B, 157 W. 57th Street, New York, NY 10019, 212-582-6823. Muriel Olive, Director.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members and friends of the TV/TS community.

EULENSPIEGEL SOCIETY: The Eulenspiegel Society, Box 2783 Grand Rapids Station, NYC, NY 10163, 212-477-6588.

Nature: For those with S/M and B/D fantasies. The oldest organization of its type.

Service: Frequent events specifically oriented toward the TV. Inquire for times and locations.

LAMBDA IOTA CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Lambda Iota, Box 8383, Long Island City, NY 11101.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

LONG ISLAND FEMME EXPRESSION (LIFE): LIFE, Box 121, Ozone Park, NY 11416.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: Meetings twice monthly, newsletter, referrals.

Security: Applicant for membership must meet with two members of the Board prior to attending meetings.

LONG ISLAND SOCIAL CLUB: Kay and Ursula Kwarta, 50 Sunny Road, St. James, NY 11780, 516-584-7736.

Nature: Monthly dinner parties in a non-sexual atmosphere. A social gathering for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their friends.

Services: Meeting on the fourth Saturday of each month. Bring your own bottle. A $10 charge includes a hot meal. Limited space available for dressing. Reservations necessary to assure sufficient food for all.

Security: A phone call to Kay will usually suffice. No drugs or excessive alcohol are tolerated. All guests are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen.

SEX INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COUNCIL OF THE UNITED STATES (SIECUS): SIECUS, 80 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10011

Nature: SIECUS is affiliated with the Department of Health Education of the School of Education, Health, Nursing, and the Arts Professions of New York University. SIECUS deals with all sexual issues, including gender expression.

HE GATHERING: The Gathering, Box 21052, Columbus Circle Station, New York, NY 10023. For additional information: Jana L. Thompson, 201-342-6548 or Renata L. White, 03-869-8561.

Nature: A self-help support group for transsexuals in the greater New York metropolitan area.

Services: Meetings the 1st Sunday afternoon of every month to discuss common problems (meeting sites vary; inquire first), hear helping professionals, share experiences and information, and enjoy a pleasant social experience. Objectives include the development of a network of peer counsellors, distribution of pertinent literature, and resource guides to institutions and services.

Security: Participation is open to all potential M-F and F-M pre-and post-operative transsexuals, friends, and relatives. Inquiry required.

METAMORPHOSIS: Box 6245, Broadway Station, Long Island City, NY 11106, 718-728-4615.

Nature: Psychotherapy and counselling for persons with gender identity/expression related problems.

CONFIDE PERSONAL COUNSELLING SERVICES INC.: Box 56, Tappan, NY 10983, 914-359-8650. Garrett Oppenheim, Director.

Nature: CONFIDE is a private service offering counselling, therapy, hypnosis, and hypnotherapy with a large portion of our practice dealing with gender problems. Private sessions are held with Garrett Oppenheim, PhD, FIC.

CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: See "Chi Delta Mu" for NJ/PA.

TRANSGENDERISTS' INDEPENDENCE CLUB (TGIC): TGIC, Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604, 518-436-4513 5-10 PM weekdays, 10 AM-5 PM Saturdays.

Nature: Non-sexual group offering support to crossdressers, transsexuals, and significant others.

Services: Monthly parties, support group raps twice a month, newsletter, wives' support group, newsletter, wives' support raps, storage.

Security: We have a screening process to ensure the comfort and safety of all. You may feel sure of anonymity and our discretion.

ANDROGYNY UNLIMITED: Box 4887, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602, 914-462-7455. Roger E. Peo PhD, Director.

Nature: A private service providing counselling, research, education, and supporting services.

Services: Individual counselling is provided by Dr. Peo, a Board-certified sexologist. Counselling is primarily for the transvestite/ crossdresser and/or his significant other. Counselling is also provided for persons who are trying to determine if they are crossdressers or transsexuals. Referrals are made where appropriate. Make-up and shopping services for clients are also available. Classes, seminars, and workshops on transgender issues and human sexuality are provided both for college and graduate-level students and other groups. Ongoing research is conducted on a variety of topics in the transgender field.

Security: Appointments for counselling can be made by phoning or writing Dr. Peo at the above address.

THE BUTTERFLY GROUP: Box 7161, Endicott, NY 13760, Shannon Michaels, President, 607-798-8033.

Nature: The Butterfly Group is a non-profit, non-sexual social and educational group for persons interested in crossdressing, transsexual persons, and their relatives and friends.

Services: We have social get-togethers, a Couples Club, and a small network of professional and para-professionals, social workers, medical practitioners, beauty consultants, and clothing retailers who are interested in and very helpful to us.

Security: Butterfly has no major security requirements, but we do require persons desiring to attend meetings to be screened by our membership chair-person or other appointed member. Alternately, a letter of introduction from a qualified person is required to ensure understanding and compliance with our code of conduct.

EON ("Expressing Our Nature"): Box 6293, Camillus, NY 13031

Nature: EON is a non-profit, non-sexual social and educational peer support group. It is comprised mainly of committed couples, one of which is a cross-dresser.

Services: We have social get-togethers in a pleasant atmosphere at the home of one of our members. We also have non-dress discussion groups for our couples and friends. We have several shops available which cater to our members. We also have a very active wives support group.

Security: EON requires a screening by a member of their screening committee prior to invitation as a guest. If you would like to become a guest, please contact us through our P.O. box. We welcome all mature and responsible people who enjoy the company of friends who share a common interest. We emphasize good manners, lady-like behavior, support, and security for all.

TRANSVESTITES ANONYMOUS (TVA): TVA, Box 92055, Rochester, NY 14692; (716) 458-7633

Nature: TVA is a growing non-profit support currently consisting of about 30 members. We presently have no yearly dues, being sustained by donations from the members.

Services: We publish a monthly newsletter for the members. We meet the third Tuesday of every month. Our new 4000 square foot Group Facility has sufficient space to accommodate overnight stays.

Security: We have a screening person who meets with prospective members. We also control the membership list for security reasons. Access to our Group Facility is limited strictly to Key Members.

JENNIFER'S JOURNAL: c/o Jennifer Wells, Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181.

Nature: Newsletter for M-F TVs.

Services: Includes articles on current events, common sense, observations, beauty tips, and related matters.

NEW JERSEY
PENNSYLVANIA

CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Chi Delta Mu, Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762; 201-663-0772.

Nature: See "Society for the Second Self".

Services: Get-togethers the 2nd Saturday of each month in either northern New Jersey or southern Westchester County, NY. Very interested in attracting wives and girl friends. We have over 75 paid members, and have been in existence over four years.

Security: Private interview with Chapter President or qualified member.

NORTHERN NEW JERSEY: Ms. Lynda Frank, Box 9192, Morristown, NJ 07960; 201-663-0772.

Nature: Open membership, non-sexual.

Services: Get-togethers the last Saturday of each month at various locations in northern NJ. Ms. Frank now handles the TV-related affairs of the dissolved Pine Brook, NJ chapter as well.

Security: Interview required.

NEW NORTHERN NEW JERSEY CHAPTER: c/o Ms. Kimberly S. Grant, 7 Mill Road, Irvington, NJ 07111; 201-371-6577.

Nature: TS/TG support and social functions.

Services: The revised Northern New Jersey Chapter looks forward to serving the TS/TG Gender Community with individual and group counseling, referrals, and general support. Persons seeking TV information, support, and social functions are encouraged to contact Ms. Lynda Frank at 201-663-6772.

SIGMA NU RHO CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Dorothy G., Box 467, Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

EN FEMME MAGAZINE: En Femme Magazine, Box 7854, Trenton, NJ 08628.

Nature: Non-sexual magazine dealing with all aspects of the transvestite, transsexual, and female impersonator in a tasteful, dignified manner.

Services: Articles, interviews, stories, artwork, photos, classifieds.

THE JERSEY SHORE SYSTEM: Ocean County, NJ; 609-693-8849. 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service.

Services: Log on using the name APRIL MAY with the password of FRIENDS (all caps). This will get you into a sub-board of the main system. After you have logged on as above you may register the name of your choice for future access.

F_2M: c/o S.G., Box 615, Tenafly, NJ 07670.

Nature: A non-profit social and support organization created by and for female-to-male transsexuals and crossdressers. "Knowledge is the key to the door of gender-reassignment. Up-to-date information is essential."

Services: Social events in the New York area, confidential contacts, a comprehensive resource directory, and a newsletter. Compiling information necessary to the F-M transition into a central database. F_2M actively solicits correspondence: questions, concerns, and all items of F-M TS information are requested.

Security: We believe that confidentiality, and often anonymity are critical issues for TSs on our mailing list. All correspondence is considered confidential.

TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT GROUP OF PHILADELPHIA: TS Support Group, 15836, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Nancy Ann Forrest, Director.

Nature: A non-profit, non-political support group for are, have been, or think they may be transsexual. The purpose of the group is to ease the loneliness, the feeling of uniqueness, and to provide hope through open-mindedness on a common ground of mutual respect. The thrust of the group is geared toward the whole person, not just their sex or gender, but rather all aspects- physical, mental, emotional, and physical.

Services: Our group meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at Dignity House, 252 South 12th Street, Philadelphia, PA. We have raps, workshops, and other events. There are no dues or fees; we are supported solely by donations. No person is turned away due to affectional status or inability to pay.

RENAISSANCE: Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Nature: Renaissance is a non-profit, non-sexual organization dedicated to the support and education of the transgendered community and the general population. It is an open group that accepts without judgement and helps individuals to grow at their own pace.

Services: For TVs and TSs. Monthly meetings with educational programs, Significant Other Support Group, Transsexual Support Group, TV rap groups, a monthly newsletter, and community activities. Call the Help Line 24 hours a day for information on the latest activities.

For professionals: Speakers Bureau with experienced and accomplished lecturers for college, university, radio, and television appearances anywhere in the US. Renaissance also publishes a series of Background Papers to help professionals and clients to understand transgender behavior.

Security: There is no screening process for prospective members. All member personal information is strictly confidential and available only to the Board of Directors.

CREATIVE DESIGN SERVICES: Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406; 215-640-9449.

Nature: A commercial concern marketing a line of products and services for the TV/TS Community.

Services: Publish "Art and Illusion: a Guide to Crossdressing" and "LadyLike Magazine", sponsors "Paradise in the Poconos" weekends in May and September.

Security: None.

TRANSPITT: Box 3214, Pittsburgh, PA 15230. Sheila Kirk, President.

Nature: TransPitt is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Meetings the third Saturday of each odd-numbered month. Referrals.

Security: Meeting with Club officer.

MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON: R. Lewis, Box 80724, Washington, DC 20004-0724.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for members of the TV/TS community.

BALTIMORE CHAPTER TRI-ESS: c/o Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

SEXOLOGY ASSOCIATES, INC.: H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Counselling for transgendered persons.

JANUS/DC: c/o H. Martin Malin, PhD, 4835 Del Ray Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Nature: Transsexual support.

ACADEMY AWARDS OF WASHINGTON, DC: 5104 South 11th Street, Arlington, VA 22202.

Nature: Theatrical drag, with emphasis on the performing arts.

WASHINGTON, DC TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

DELTA CHI CHAPTER: Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others. **Services**: Social activities, meetings one a month.

Security: Inquiry needed.

BUTTERFLY COUPLES OF NOVA: NOVA, c/o 4835 Del Ray Ave, Bethesda, MD 20814

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others. An emphasis on people in committed relationships.

Services: Social activities.

Security: Inquire.

NORFOLK TS GROUP: (6/88 Mail returned, moved, left no address)

Nature: Transsexual support.

PASSING FANCY: Alexandria, VA 703-765-6290; 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. Both a public and a private section. The private section is available for subscribers only. Answer the "SYSTEM ID" prompt with "FANCY" to gain access to the public section.

PHOENIX: Phoenix, c/o J. Britton, 54 Fulton St, Ashville, NC 28801

Nature: Non-profit TV/TS support group. Significant others and friends welcome.

Services: Irregularly scheduled meetings. Inquire for time and location. 1 on 1 meetings if requested.

Security: Good manners, common sense, protect the security and peace of mind of all.

CHARLOTTE, NC TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

WINSTON-SALEM TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

FLORENCE, SC TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

MEMPHIS, TN TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

CHARLSTON, WV TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

THE MONTGOMERY FOUNDATION, INC.: Gender Dysphoric Association, Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033.

Nature: Strictly a support group for F-M and M-F pre- and post-op transsexuals. No fees.

Services: Referrals, rap sessions, and programs designed for the needs of the transsexual.

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE: Box 16314, Atlanta, GA 30321.

Nature: A newsletter written by and about transsexuals. $2.00 per copy; $12.00 per year.

SIGMA EPSILON CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Sigma Epsilon, Box 724222, Atlanta, GA 30339.

Nature: Social support group for crossdressers and their significant others in the Chattanooga, TN metro area. Publishes the Dixie Belle, a monthly newsletter "Serving the Sassy Ladies of the Sunny South".

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

BETA CHI CHAPTER OF TRI-ESS IN MISSISSIPPI: Box 31253, Jackson, MS 39206-1253; 601-362-4549. Lee Frances, Secretary.

Nature: Social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

NEW ORLEANS TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

SERENITY: c/o Nikki Bee, Box 307, Hollywood, FL 33022.

Nature: Social/support group for TVs, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Monthly meetings and newsletter.

Security: Inquire.

CENTRAL FLORIDA SISTERS: Dale Larson, 107 Morelia Lane, Kissammee, FL 32743.

Nature: Non-profit, non-sexual social support group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others.

Services: Meetings 1st Saturday of each month.

Security: Screening before attendance. Good manners and common sense.

GIAD: Box 76234, St. Petersburg, FL 33734-6234. Alex Hagblom, Director.

Nature: A relatively new group of individuals dealing with gender dysphoria.

ST. PETERSBURG TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

ORLANDO CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: c/o Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

MID-WEST SOUTH-CENTRAL

PARADISE CLUB: Paradise, Box 29654, Parma, OH 44129

Nature: Paradise is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an emphasis on friendship and support, especially for wives. Paradise has approximately 90 members, with an average of 50+ in attendance at each meeting.

Services: Paradise publishes a newsletter (Paradise Tales), and sponsors a meeting every other month with a catered dinner and usually a special event such as a speaker, make-up advice, a show, or other event of interest.

Security: Paradise welcomes all mature and responsible. We place emphasis on manners, common sense, and the security of all.Membership is offered only after a personal interview with an officer. Non-members may attend meetings with the concurrence of an officer. Open membership, but all members must be crossdressers, and must dress at meetings.

ALPHA OMEGA CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: (formerly Genesis) Box 954, Elyria, OH 44036 (attn: Jill)

Nature: A social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their families.

Services: Bi-monthly meetings. Publish the Alpha Omega Outreach newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance at a meeting requires the approval of a qualified Alpha Omega officer.

CROSS-PORT: 2020-B Beechmont Avenue, Box 150, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230; attn: Heather.

Nature: Cross-Port is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for the male-to-female and the female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual, and supportive friends regardless of sexual preference, practices, or orientation.

Services: A monthly newsletter is distributed to all members.

Security: All guests and members are expected to conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen. Common sense is the rule. The mailing and membership lists are confidential. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of any other member to anyone, except with the other member's express permission.

TOLEDO TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

INDIANA CROSSDRESSERS SOCIETY (Iota Chi Sigma): IXE, Box 20710, Indianapolis, IN 46220.

Nature: A non-profit TV/TS social/support group.

Services: We currently have about 20 members and have been meeting monthly in Indianapolis.

Security: Inquire.

CROSSROADS CHAPTER: Club address: Crossroads, Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245. Milesa Phar, President. Business address: Box 1298, Flint, MI 48501. Phone messages: 313-446-0782.

Nature: Crossroads is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization emphasizing friendship, support, and the peace of mind of all. Crossroads has a formal membership of approximately 90 and an informal membership of approximately 250.

Services: Crossroads publishes a newsletter (Crossroads Chatter) and sponsors both formal and casual social activities. We provide referrals to other organizations nationwide, and to helping professionals in the Great Lakes area. We also investigate agencies, businesses, and organizations, and do considerable outreach work and publicity for the paraculture.

Security: Crossroads welcomes all mature and responsible people, and emphasizes good manners, common sense, and the security of all.

CROSSROADS OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN: See Crossroads Chapter, above.

CROSSROADS SPEAKERS BUREAU: Contact Milesa Phar, Box 1245, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1245.

NATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ORGANIZATION AND SUPPORT GROUP: N.G.D.O, Box 02732, Detroit, MI 48202; 313-842-5258. Justina Williams, President.

Nature: N.G.D.O. is a non-profit organization serving gender dysphoria victims and crossdressers. It is a "crossover" organization into the general public.

Services: N.G.D.O. publishes a newsletter (N.G.D.O. Keys to Freedom) and sponsors support groups for gender dysphoric persons, crossdressers, and parents. N.G.D.O. also sponsors Bible reading groups, a speaker's bureau, and conventions.

N.G.D.O. GRAND RAPIDS SUPPORT GROUP: 616-361-5459 (Ask for Becky)

Nature: See N.G.D.O. Detroit listing.

Services: Complete details not available at this time; call.

I.M.E. OF WESTERN MICHIGAN: Box 1153, Grand Rapids, MI 49501.

Nature: Social, support, and educational group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their significant others, regardless of sexual orientation.

Services: Social outlet of the Cross Dresser. Mail forwarding. We have the services of a MSW social worker free of charge to members. Lectures and referrals. Monthly meetings and socials.

Security: All member files are strictly confidential. Prospective members must sign a pledge of confidentiality.

DETROIT TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

CHICAGO GENDER SOCIETY: CGS, Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657. Mr. David Maxwell, President; 312-231-8923.

Nature: Non-profit social organization for crossdressers, transsexuals, and friends.

Security: Inquire.

THE SUNDAY SOCIETY: c/o Sheila L. Samporgnaro, 2511 North Saint Louis, Chicago, IL 60647; 312-486-3125.

Nature: Created to serve the needs of the TS CGS member and the TS community at large. Affiliated with the Chicago Gender Society.

Services: Regular meetings, 3rd Sunday of each month. Peer support for pre- and post-op TSs, referrals, counseling, public education, and evaluation of professional services.

Security: Inquire.

CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040. Hot Line: 312-364-9514.

Nature: Chicago Chapter of the Society for the Second Self, a non-profit organization for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services: Social activities, a support group for wives and girlfriends, a help line, newsletter, library, speakers bureau, and co-sponsor of "Be All You Want To Be" weekend. Meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month, annual family picnic, Awards Banquet, Christmas Party.

Security: Inquire.

THE CROSSDRESSER'S BUREAU: G. Wright, Box 172, Gurnee, IL 60031.

Nature: Newsletter.

Services: The definitive source for news on and about crossdressers and crossdressing in the Chicagoland area as well as articles and information of interest to all. This monthly publication is now available by subscription to anywhere in the US and Canada. Six issues for $6.00, twelve issues for $10.00.

WISCONSIN NETWORK: The Network, Box 632, Waukesha, WI 53187; 414-532-5735 (3-9 PM).

Nature: The Network prefers to deal with people from a variety of lifestyles (gay/bi men/women, TVs/TSs and others) who are looking for long term relationships or help in developing relationships with others or with the family, friends, and significant others in one's life.

Services: A monthly newsletter, monthly meetings for gay men and women, bisexual men and women, TVs and TSs. The Network also provides social gatherings for special events and a dating service.

CHANGING MEN: Editorial Office & Subscriptions, 306 N. Brooks St, Madison, WI 53715

Nature: An international magazine dealing with the issues of gender, sex, and politics.

PROGRAM IN HUMAN SEXUALITY: 2630 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55414; Dr. Eli Coleman, Dir.

Services: Details not available at this time.

CITY OF LAKES CROSSDRESSERS CLUB (CLCC): Box 16265, Minneapolis, MN 55416.

Nature: Monthly meetings. The group's purpose is to provide a comfortable social setting for cross-dressers to meet like-minded folks. We are a non-sexual group when together; however, personal orientation is not considered when newcomers apply to join us.

Security: A personal interview before coming to the first party.

SCD PUBLISHING: c/o Nancy Lawson, Box 6322, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Nature: TV/TS publishing house.

Services: Publishes TV/TS Talk bi-monthly for members and supporters of the TV/TS Community. TV/TS Talk is modeled after the Penthouse Forum, but deals exclusively with gender related issues. $3.50 per issue; $21.00 per year.

CAROLYN'S CLOSET: Minneapolis, MN; 612-452-2676; 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board: Totally free. A very nice, user-friendly board with some very nice user-written fiction and stories.

MINNEAPOLIS TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

ST LOUIS GATEWAY FEMMES: SLGF, Box 1262, St. Louis, MO 63188.

Nature: A social/support group for the TV/TS Community and interested professionals. Provides members the opportunity to dress at meetings, share experiences, improve feminine abilities, and give each other the support we all need. Meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of each even numbered month.

Services: A bi-monthly newsletter, the Gateway Femmes Gazette, club business cards, and a membership directory.

CROSSDRESSERS AND FRIENDS: (Kansas City area) (6/7/88 Mail returned, undeliverable)

Nature: Non-profit support group. Inquire for additional details.

ST. LOUIS TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

KANSAS CITY TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

CEDAR RAPIDS CHAPTER, TRI ESS: Iowa Artistry, Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Services: Inquire.

CLUB GEMINI: 418 Linn Street, Leavenworth, KS 66048. Rebecca Gail Croslove, Director.

Nature: A newly-formed non-sexual social support group for TVs and TSs.

Services: Meetings, peer support, information exchange.

Security: The privacy and confidentiality of all members is carefully protected. Members are screened before attending a meeting.

RHO CHI RHO CHAPTER - TRI ESS: River City Ruffles, Box 24060, Omaha, NB 68124-0060

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

TRI DELTA CHAPTER - TRI ESS: Tri Delta, Box 533, Richmond, TX 77469.

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with the chapter president.

DELTA OMEGA CHAPTER (DALLAS CHAPTER) - TRI ESS: Box 461401, Garland, TX 75046.

Nature: Social, for heterosexual TVs and their significant others.

Services: Social activities; publish the DFW New Missies newsletter.

Security: Membership and attendance requires an interview with a chapter officer.

BOULTON AND PARK SOCIETY: Box 169652, San Antonio, TX 78280-3252. Hotline: 512-657-2540.

Nature: open, non-profit, non-sexual. Social and peer support plus local information for transsexual, transvestic, and transgendered folks, their families and friends.

Services: Meetings, newsletter (Gender Euphoria), business directory, outreach to helping professionals, plus a national outreach program for individuals referred to us.

Services: You are expected to be mature enough to exist with others in social situations, exercising good manners and good sense in protecting the security and peace of mind of all. Before attending your first soiree you must meet with a designated member. If we aren't comfortable with you, you won't be invited to attend.

THE ATHENA SOCIETY: Box 65026, San Antonio, TX 78265; Denise J. Griffiths, President.

Nature: Transsexual support.

Services: Meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month, a directory of services for the San Antonio area, and a referral system.

Security: We are very security conscious, and will not release names to anyone.

INTER-MOUNTAIN SOUTHWEST

GENDER IDENTITY CENTER OF COLORADO, INC. (G.I.C.): Box 11563, 3715 32nd Avenue, Denver, CO 80211; 303-458-5378.

Nature: A non-profit, tax-exempt, educational and affiliative organization designed to provide a public service to the community.

Services: G.I.C. provides information and education on the issues of cross-dressing and gender conflict through a library of books and journal articles, rap sessions, workshops and seminars, and guest speakers from various areas of the community. These areas include medical, legal, insurance, personal grooming, male and female appearance and behaviors, and other related matters. G.I.C. also provides a Speaker's Bureau and a 24-hour hotline.

DELTA CHAPTER TRI-ESS (Denver): Delta Chapter, c/o Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275 (temporary mailing address).

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

THE INTERNATIONAL GENDER EDUCATION RESPONSE: TIGER, Box 17442, Denver, CO 80217.

Nature: Non-profit legal advocacy task force for the crossdressing and transsexual community.

Services: Building and utilizing a legal defence fund to fight for your right to crossdress. All donations are gratefully accepted. Affiliated with ETVC of San Francisco.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: Tomye Kelley, M.A., 8972 Oberon Road, Arvada, CO; 303-420-9885.

Nature: Practice limited to work with crossdressers, the gender conflicted, and their significant others.

Services: Private one-on-one psychotherapy, weekly support groups, process groups for those in or preparing for transition. Also a professional Speaker's Forum.

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER, Colorado Office: 406 First National Bank Building, Box 402, Trinidad, CO 81082. Marsha Botzer, President; 206-281-0943 (in Washington State).

Nature: See I.G.C., Seattle, WA.

GENDER IDENTITY COMMITTEE: Department of Psychiatry, University of Utah, College of Medicine, 50 North Medical Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84132; 801-581-7951. Dr. Nyla J. Cole, MD.

Services: Details not available at this time.

SALT LAKE CITY CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: Alpha Provesta, Box 26711, Salt Lake City, UT 84126.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

A ROSE: Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261.

Nature: A non-sexual support group for TVs, their wives, friends, and relatives.

ALPHA ZETA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: Alpha Zeta, Box 8425, Mesa, AZ 85214.

Nature: A support group for heterosexual crossdressers, and their significant others.

Services: Social activities, monthly meetings.

Security: Before attending, and interview with a chapter officer is required.

TRANSITION CLUB: Box 14113, Las Vegas, NV 89114-4113; 702-369-6020, ask for "TC".

Nature: Private club for transsapiens who are transvestite, pre-op transsexual, and crossdressers.

Services: Gatherings held at a private unpublished location. Friendship, companionship, recreation, business, travel, etc. Publish a newsletter.

DOUBLE IMAGE: Box 71795, Las Vegas, NV 89170-1795; 702-795-8798.

Nature: A non-profit support group for TVs, TSs, crossdressers, and family.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

CALIFORNIA

NEUTRAL CORNER: Box 12581, San Diego, CA 92112.

Nature: A self-help group for crossdressers, transsexuals, and their families. Its purpose is to help its members live a normal and productive life.

Services: Serving San Diego County with social and educational programs, a communication network, monthly meetings, membership consulting, wives' and families' input, a buyer's guide, and a list of helping professionals.

Security: Inquire.

SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, TRI ESS: c/o Tri Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275

Nature: Social support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Nature: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

POWDER PUFF OF CALIFORNIA (PPOC): c/o Judy Scott, Box 1162, Brea, CA 92622; 714-255-1722 5:00 to 9:00 PM ONLY.

Nature: Open non-sexual social club for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Meetings on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

Security: Interview by club officer.

FEMININE IMAGE: c/o Alicia, Ontario, CA 91762; 619-244-4481.

Nature: TV/TS club offering support, problem solving regardless of your sexual preference or practices.

Services: Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Social activities and group outings. Novices welcome.

Security: High regard for discretion.

CROSSDRESSER HETEROSEXUAL INTERSOCIAL CLUB (CHIC): Box 562, Duarte, CA 90010. Information/Speakers Bureau: 714-993-7142.

Nature: CHIC is for heterosexual transvestites or crossdressers only, their wives, professional people (MDs, psychologists, teachers, etc.), and friends. We are a local Southern California organization. We offer support and friendship, and stress security and good manners.

Services: We sponsor meetings, parties, monthly dinners, and seminars on make-up, wigs, clothes, and other topics of interest. We publish a monthly newsletter (CHIC Clippings) and sponsor educational programs for the public. Meetings held 2nd Saturday night of each month.

Security: Meetings are closed except to members and approved guests. All guests must be screened and approved by two Board members and (if a home meeting) the hostess. Prospective members must apply with a written application, be interviewed by two members of the Membership Committee, and then approved by the Board of Directors. CHIC emphasizes strict security for all its members and guests.

NATIONAL GENDER PROJECT: Box 126, Northridge, CA 91328. Dr. Richard F. Docter, PhD, Director, Department of Psychology, California State University Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330; 818-885-2828.

Nature: Individual and marital counselling for TVs, TS, and their significant others; research on gender issues.

Services: Counselling and research on gender issues. Dr. Richard Doctor's new book, Transvestites and Transsexuals: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior is now available from I.F.G.E., Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. ($29.50 plus $2.50 shipping and handling.)

ALPHA CHAPTER TRI-ESS: c/o Charlene Day, Box 3501, Arcadia, CA 91006

Nature: Social and support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

GENDER DYSPHORIA PROGRAM OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.: 31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675; 714-661-7332.

Nature: A comprehensive program for gender dysphoric persons. Our program is one of many options available. It is a composite of evaluative and treatment techniques developed over the years by the more successful programs, which permit extensive screening and interaction of the patient at minimum cost, integrating the patient into the mainstream of society.

Services: Our program is structured to permit the patient to explore alternatives to sex reassignment while providing an effective support mechanism during transition. Our program is a 4-block procedure consisting of intake, transition/support, surgery approval/disapproval, and follow-up.

OMEGA CHI TRI-ESS (Orange County, CA): Omega, Box 9091, Anaheim, CA 92802.

Nature: social support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Services/Security: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES: Box 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184; 714-496-5227.

Nature: J2CP provides information and referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and the JANUS Information Facility.

Services: J2CP provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning Gender Dysphoria Syndrome, TVism, and TSism. This info package is available at a cost of $25.00 to cover research, printing, secretarial, and postage services. J2CP also provides referrals to reputable counselors, psychotherapists, gender programs, and peer groups near your home. Certified checks and money orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are M-F TS, F-M TS, or TV. If TS, please provide your place of birth.

HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION: HBIGDA, 900 Welch Road #402, Stanford, CA 94304.

Nature: A non-profit professional group with special interest in gender dysphoria syndrome.

THE PACIFIC CENTER FOR HUMAN GROWTH: Box 908, Berkeley, CA 94701; 415-548-8283. **Hot Line: 415-841-6224.** Allyana Guenther, Executive Director.

Nature: A private, non-profit agency funded by the United Way, county revenue sharing funds, sliding scale fees, and contributions. The Center is dedicated to providing high-quality services to sexual minorities of all ages, races, and backgrounds.

Services: Educational services and outreach to the community at large. Speaker's Bureau, counseling, and group meetings.

CHI TAU TRI-ESS (Tulare Area): c/o Tri-Ess, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Social and support group for crossdressers and their significant others.

Security/Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA, below.

SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF: Carol Beecroft, Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

Nature: Tri-Ess is a non-profit organization exclusively for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: Tri Ess provides a correspondence directory, a directory of commercial services, a magazine (the Femme Mirror), and chapters throughout the US.

Security: Membership in Tri Ess is open to heterosexual TVs only. Membership and attendance at a local chapter meeting requires an interview with the chapter president or older member to insure that the applicant is heterosexual and will comply with the Tri Ess code of conduct.

"INLAND EMPIRE" (EAST OF LA) TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

DELTA CHI CHAPTER - TRI ESS: c/o Kymberleigh Meghann Richards, P.O. Box 6394, Ventura, CA 93006-6394

Nature: Non-profit support group for heterosexual crossdressers and their significant others.

Services: See Tri-Ess National

RAINBOW GENDER ASSOCIATION: Box 700730, San Jose', CA 95170.

Nature: Formerly San Jose' Chapter, GGA. Non-profit, non-sexual social/support group for crossdressers,

transsexuals, and their significant others regardless of their gender or sexual orientation.

Services: Our objective is to provide a safe and welcome place for male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals, transvestites, and their significant others to get together with like-minded individuals. Attendance at all RGA functions is open to all regardless of gender. We also promote the complete development of RGA members as complete men and women through emotional support and education. We reach out to all transsexuals and transvestite in an effort to help them accept and make peace with themselves. We publish a newsletter and sponsor social programs, peer support, outreach work, and public education. Visitors are welcome.

THURSDAY IRREGULARS: Joan Sheldon, Box 7205, San Jose', CA 75150-7205.

Nature: For nearly 7 years a group of TVs and their friends have met every Thursday for lunch. An informal discussion group and meeting of good friends. Participants come as their "male" selves.

Security: The group is very security conscious, so inquire about requirements.

SAN JOSE TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

FTM: 1827 Haight Street #164, San Francisco, CA 94117; 415-626-5824, ask for Lou.

Nature: Support group exclusively for female-to-male crossdressers, TSs, and their significant others.

Services: Inquire.

Security: Inquire.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER: Bonnie Goodwin, Box 38918, Sacramento, CA 95401; 707-526-2500.

Nature: Formerly Sacramento Chapter, GGA. Social/support; open to all crossdressers, transsexuals, and friends.

Services: Monthly meetings

Security: Prior to attendance, a meeting of a chapter officer.

TRI ESS SACRAMENTO (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

SOCIETY OF JANUS - SACRAMENTO GROUP: c/o Box 13852, Sacramento, CA 95838.

Nature: For persons interested in B&D activities.

EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL (ETVC): Box 6846, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Nature: ETVC is a delightful group of TVs, TSs, Significant Others, and friends. It is intended as a social and educational group, to meet and to have a good time as well as educate the public. ETVC is non-sexual, and has an open membership policy with approximately 165 members.

Services: ETVC publishes the ETVC Newsletter, and provides a program of social and educational programs, and referrals.

Security: The mailing and membership lists are confidential. Only the officers are permitted access to these lists, except in the case of judicial process. No member shall reveal the true name, address, telephone number, or profession of another member to anyone, except with the other members' express permission.

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS SUPPORT: SOS, c/o ETVC, Box 6846, San Francisco, CA 94101.

Nature: Affiliated with ETVC. An educational and support organization for the "significant others" of crossdressers and transsexuals.

Services: Meetings and a newsletter.

Security: See ETVC.

GENDER IDENTITY ANONYMOUS: No mailing address available.

Nature: A non-judgemental transgender support group.

Services: Meetings every Thursday in the Science of Mind room at 3255 Balboa Street (near 34th Avenue), San Francisco.

FEMALE TO MALE TRANSSEXUAL GROUP: FTM, 1827 Haight St #164, San Francisco, CA 94117, Lou Sullivan (415) 626-5874

Nature: Support group for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals and their "significant others" only.

Services: Get-togethers held, and FTM Newsletter published quarterly.

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY GAY AND LESBIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY: SFBAGLHS, Box 42126, San Francisco, CA 94142.

Nature: Reference library for lesbian, gay, and transgendered persons.

Services: Large periodical collection of Bay Area and California titles preserved for research.

TENDERLOIN SELF-HELP CENTER: 191 Golden Gate Ave, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 554-0518

Nature: We are an innovative and non-traditional mental health program. We are a project of Central City Hospitality House.

Services: Training in peer counselling, support group facilitation, job training. We offer peer counselling, TV/TS support groups, A.A., shelter referrals and emergency medical care referrals, and other basic survival needs. We serve the 'Tenderloin' and 'South Of Market' communities of San Francisco.

AMERICAN TRANSSEXUAL EDUCATION CENTER: 1626 N. Wilcox Avenue, Suite 184, Hollywood, CA 90028; 213-469-7559 or 213-664-4098.

Nature: New grassroots TS organization offering a variety of actual and proposed services to the TS community.

Services: Information exchange, referral, literature, peer counseling, speakers, and home crisis intervention. Willing to help the TS in any way possible.

GENDER-NET: Oakland, CA 415-763-5163.

Nature: Computer Bulletin Board Service. 300/1200 baud, 8N1.

Services: Two bulletin board sections, public and private. The private section is available to subscribers only. The oldest continuously run BBS dedicated to the TV/TS.

VENTURA CHAPTER, TRI-ESS: c/o Kimberleigh Richards, Box 6394, Ventura, CA 93006-6394.

Nature: Heterosexual crossdressers' support group for TVs and their families.

Services: See "Society for the Second Self", Tulare, CA.

Security: Inquire.

GENDER COMMUNITY ADVOCATES: GGA, c/o Ms. Tauria Linala, 512 W. Evergreen, Santa Maria, CA 93454; 805-922-1309.

Nature: GCA is a non-profit educational project established to provide services by and for the Gender Community. Affiliated with the Universal Life Church. Open to all.

Services: Local support group serving Central California. Information, referrals, support and peer counseling. Gender and sex information; referrals for medical and professional support, personal care, correspondence and peer-linking. International contacts. Peer counselling by telephone and/or appointment. Donations and contributions are welcome and tax-deductible.

Security: Inquire.

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST GENDER ALLIANCE: NWGA, Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208.

Nature: A non-profit, non-sexual social organization serving the crossdressing community.

Services: The Northwest Chapter has at least one function a month. The days vary in order to enable all of our girls to attend as often as possible. We also publish a monthly newsletter.

Security: Private interview with the chapter president.

SALMACIS: The Equalitarian Feminist Social Society, Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604. Sally Ann Douglas, Social Director; Leslie-Shawn Witham, hypnotherapist; 502-688-4282 (Sally Ann, 6-11 PM PST).

Nature: Salmacis is a social and service society devoted to the concept of feminism, supporting all those who are or desire to become women.

Services: Direct telephone counseling, contact with others with similar interests, contact with our central organization and other organizations, and personal growth workshops. Also publish Femmes Together and The Equalitarian Feminist. The Salmacis Social Society meets the 3rd Monday of every month, 8PM at the Riv, 39 W. 10th St., Eugene, OR.

SALISHON, The Womyn's Information Network: Box 1604, Eugene, OR 97440-1604; Leslie-Shawn Witham, Director.

Nature: A service and information network for womyn who perceive themselves living an alternative lifestyle.

Services: The only femininity clinic for males and shemales that is run by a staff of professional women.

EUGENE TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

EMERALD CITY: Box 31318, Seattle, WA 98103. Janice Van Cleve, Secretary.

Nature: The Emerald City is a non-profit, non-sexual organization providing social and educational services for the transvestite community of Seattle and the Northwest. Promotes positive public image in the media, in the professions, and in the business community. Provides assistance and opportunities for public presentation as well as private parties and good friendships. An independent organization, but works closely with the Ingersoll Gender Center and the Seattle Counselling Service.

Services: At least one function each month with an updated listing of acceptable vendors and contacts to a wide variety of products and services. Monthly newsletter and educational services.

Security: Must be sponsored by an active, participating member or attend the TV/TS Support Group at the Seattle Counselling Service and be accepted by an Emerald City officer. Mailing lists are strictly confidential.

THE INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER: 4604 Stone Way N., Seattle, WA 98103; 206-281-0943, Marcia Botzer, President.

Nature: A non-profit organization serving the transsexual-transvestite community.

Services: Individual and group counseling, professional consultation to service providers, referrals, research, and public information presentation. Works closely with the Seattle Counselling Service.

NORTH AMERICAN TRANSVESTITE-TRANSSEXUAL TELEPHONE CONTACT SERVICE: NATTCS, 600 E. Pine Street, Seattle, WA 98122 (206) 329-TVTS, Philip Salem, Executive Director.

Nature: A direct dating service for TVs, TSs, and admirers. over 6200 contacts nationwide. We cater to the discriminating pre-op, post-op, and professional women who enjoy the company of professional men whose hobby is crossdressing.

Services: The Contact Service provides a 24 hour hotline for TVs, TSs, and admirers throughout the country. It also provides information gratis on plastic surgery, electrolysis, and hormone therapy.

SEATTLE COunselling SERVICE: 1605 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122; 206-329-8707.

Services: Counselling service for sexual minorities; weekly support group for TVs and TSs.

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER: Box 3224, Honolulu, HI

)6801-3224; 808-926-1000.

Services: Therapists, referrals, special support group for TVs and TSs.

CANADA

QUEBEC TRANSSEXUALS AID, INC.: ATQ, Inc., Viviane Belanger, 84 Boul. des Allies, Quebec, Canada G1L 1Y2 418-648-1633.

Nature: French speaking transsexual support.

Services: Meetings, medical referrals, and related services.

FACT - QUEBEC: c/o Mrs. Patricia Fischer, Box 293, Cote de Neiges Post Office, 5858 Cote de Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3S 2S6.

Nature: Closely affiliated with FACT - Ontario. A non-profit support organization for transsexuals, their relatives and friends, professionals and para-professionals working in the field of gender dysphoria, and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Offers peer support and peer counseling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representatives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others.

Security: Inquire.

FACT - TORONTO: Box 1149, Station F, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2T8.

Nature: Affiliated with FACT - Ontario. A non-profit support organization for transsexuals, their relatives and friends, professionals and para-professionals working in the field of gender dysphoria, and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Offers peer support and peer counseling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representatives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others.

Security: Inquire.

GENDER NETWORKER NEWSLETTER: Box 1224, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6W 1G7. Rupert Raj, Director. US/canada: $3.00 (US)/single copy, $18.00/6 issues. Overseas: $3.50/single copy, $21.00/6 issues.

Nature: Mr. Raj is a highly respected helping professional and a longtime member of the gender community. Gender Worker is written for helping professionals, lay resource providers, ad others interested in keeping up to date with new resources and the latest developments in the field of "Gender Dysphoria Syndrome" (TSism, TGism, and TVism). Intended as a communications medium to help heal the breach between professional providers and GD consumers.

Services: Editorials, articles, book and film reviews, tributes, research projects and results, resource materials (books and videos), symposia, conventions, resource facilities (professional services, peer support groups), calendar of events, and media coverage.

GENDER WORKER SERVICES: Rupert Raj, BA (Psych.), P.R., Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1G7, Canada ; 416-769-7170.

Nature: A professional registered service serving a transgender clientele. Clients include both those suffering from gender dysphoria and persons who have resolved their gender issues, but require assistance with related matters.

Services: Mr. Raj provides information, referrals, counseling, group raps, intermediation between clients and significant others, presentations, seminars, workshops, peer-linking, media outreach, resume' assistance, leadership training, and networking. Services may be conducted through office visits or correspondence; fees normally $20.00 per hour or $25.00 per letter.

FEDERATION OF AMERICAN AND CANADIAN TRANSSEXUALS: FACT, Box 291 Station "A", Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8; 416-529-7884. Susan Huxford, Director.

Nature: A non-profit support organization for transsexuals, their relatives and friends, professionals and para-professionals working in the field of gender dysphoria, and others prepared to support the aims of the Foundation.

Services: Information distribution concerning transsexualism. Publishes Gender Review, a periodical news sheet. Offers peer support and peer counseling. Organizes support groups across Canada wherever these are feasible and has area representatives wherever possible. Provides speakers on transsexualism to the mass media and others.

Security: No screening for members or subscribers to Gender Review. Local groups establish their own security procedures.

GENDERSERVE: Box 291 Station "A", Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8; 416-529-7884. Susan Huxford, Director.

Nature: Counseling, education, and research services. Registered in Ontario as a proprietorship. Operating as a non-profit organization serving TVs, TSs, and gender dysphoric people in general, homosexual people, wives, friends, and relatives. Services for a nominal fee to cover expenses. Inquiries by male or phone. No collect calls. The proprietor has screened a number of professional organizations in the US.

Services: Counselling in sexual matters for individuals and couples. Pastoral counselling if requested. Referrals. Initial counselling session (mail or phone) free of charge. Lectures, radio/television and other mass media interviews by arrangement. Group counselling and therapy by request. Publishes books and papers (reviewed in SIECUS Report) of a counselling nature. Public education by articles and other forms for press release. Role-playing and simulation exercises.

TRANSITION SUPPORT: c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2C9.

Nature: Transsexual support.

Services: Monthly meetings and a newsletter. Meetings held on the evening of the second Friday of each month.

Security: Inquire.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: c/o Dr. Betty Steiner, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, 250 College Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5T 1R8.

Nature: Accepts referrals through the patient's General Practitioner only.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC: c/o Dr. John M. Bradford, Royal Ottawa Hospital, 1145 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1Z 7K4.

Nature: Accepts referrals through the patient's General Practitioner only.

OTTAWA TRI ESS TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

FRIENDSHIP AND ASSISTANCE TO CANADIAN TRANSSEXUALS AND TRANSVESTITES: FACTT, Box 9155, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G 3T9; 'phone contact through the Gayline @ 613-238-1717. (Temporary number; ask for Michele Gauthier to ring back.)

MONTREAL/QUEBEC CITY TRI ESS (FORMING GROUP): Write c/o "Society for the Second Self", Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275.

CORNBURY SOCIETY: Cornbury Society, Box 3745, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Z1 CANADA

Nature: Non-sexual support group for heterosexual crossdressers.

Services/Security: Inquire for meeting times and locations, and security requirements.

GREAT BRITAIN

BEAUMONT SOCIETY: Box 3084, London WC1N-3XX England.

Nature: Beaumont is a non-profit, non-sexual organization for heterosexual transvestites throughout Great Britain.

Services: Evening and weekend functions, counselling for TVs with problems, and a contact system for members. Two bi-monthly magazines: The Beaumont Bulletin, which contains editorial notices, personal ads, a shopping guide, regional news, and articles on related matters; also Beaumag, which contains fictional, biographical, and autobiographical stories. Beaumont provides a library, legal advice, and a liaison and referral service to other organizations. Beaumont has a network of organizations throughout Great Britain, and affiliations worldwide.

Security: Private interview with a qualified member.

TV/TS SUPPORT GROUP: Yvonne Sinclair, The TV/TS Group, 2/4 French Place, London England E1 6JB (off Bateman's Row); 01-359-4868. Hours: 8-10 PM Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Nature: The TV/TS Group is a Registered Charity and a member of the NCVO (National Council of Volunteer Organizations). Primarily a social/support organization for crossdressers, transsexuals, families, and friends.

Services: Private facilities with comfortable lounges, storage lockers, social areas, and other attractive features. Friendly, informal social evenings every Saturday and Sunday. There is a helpline at 01-729-1466. Its hours are 10:30 AM - 4:30 PM Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:30 PM on Friday, and 8:00 - 10:00 PM Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. 24 hour answering machines and information also at this number. Peer support for crossdressers, transsexuals, and significant others. Publish the Glad Rag and other informational publications.

Security: Inquire.

SELF HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSSEXUALS: SHAFT, 106 Barton Avenue, Keyham, Plymouth, England PL2 1NZ; 0752-559939.

Nature: Transsexual support.

NEW TRANS ESSEX: Box 3, Basildon, Essex, England SS14 1PT; 0255-554158 evenings 7:30 - 11:00 PM.

Nature: TV/TS social club.

Services: Meetings 2nd Friday of every month at the Kavorah Manor. There is a Club newsletter and a helpline.

MERSEYSIDE TV/TS GROUP: 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool, England L1 4DE; 051-708-0234. D. S. Cochran, secretary.

Nature: See "Beaumont society".

SCOTTISH TV/TS GROUP: c/o SHRG, 58A Broughton Street, Edinburgh EH135A, Scotland; 031-556-4049.

GENDER TRANSIENT AFFINITY (Isle of Wight): GTA, c/o Miss Phaedra Kelley, Box 2, 1 Bank Buildings, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, P040 9AJ, UK of GB.

Nature: A non-profit organization dedicated to helping any transgendered person in any way possible.

Services: A network of friends communicating by mail. A "Global Village" project which is a collection of groups and organizations from around the world. Designed to "cement the bond of mutual respect and affinity among us", publishing news from around the world, travel routes between countries, etc. There is a museum and library.

TRANSGENDER ARCHIVE: TGA, c/o Dr. Richard Elkins, Ulster University, Magee College, Northland Road, Londonderry, BT48 7JL Ireland.

Nature: A non-profit academic research and study facility.

Services: Seeking both group and personal deposits related to every kind of Transgender regardless of sexuality or self designation of gender identity: TV/TS/TG/GT/CD, Gender Bender/Blender, Drag (all kinds), Newspaper cut-

tings, magazines, group journals, photos, sound and video tapes, records, artifacts of history and living history.

Security: One hundred percent, closed deposits accepted as noted by the depositor. Access to research material by direct application to Dr. Elkins, granted subject to his decision.

THE NORTHERN CONCORD: The Northern Concord (in Manchester), c/o 122 Navigation Rd, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 1BE ENGLAND

Nature: A non-profit social and support group for transvestites, transsexuals, their wives and significant others. Associated with the Beaumont Society, and the TV/TS Support Group.

Services: Meetings at a Bistro in Manchester city every Wednesday night from 7:00 - 12:00. Publishes a quarterly magazine "Cross Talk".

Security: Inquire

EUROPE

TRANS-CCL: Reverend Joseph Douce', Centre du Christ Liberateur, Minorities Sexuelles, TRANS-CCL, 3 Bis, Rue Clairaut, 75017, Paris-France; Tel. 1-226-7048. (Reverend Douce' speaks English.)

Nature: TRANS-CCL is a non-profit social organization for sexual minorities. It is non-political and with a Christian foundation, but is also open to people with other convictions. **Services**: A help-line Mondays from 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM at 1-627-4936. We have a large contact section (about 500 entries; probably the largest one in Europe) of contacts for transvestites and transsexuals. We can provide legal, psychological, pastoral, and surgical help, advisors, and literature for transsexuals. We organize meetings, meals, and other related events. We have a large documentation section on transsexuality. We can also provide all information available in Europe. We publish the book, La Question Transsexualle, exploring attitudes and procedures regarding transsexualism in the various European countries. (English translation not yet complete; French language edition currently in print; price 133.5 francs total.)

FEMME TRAVESTIE: 8023 Zurich, Switzerland Postfach 6788.

Nature: Very active social group in Switzerland. Other details are unavailable at this time.

F.P.E. NORTHERN EUROPE: M.A. Postboks 192 DK2600, Glostrup, Denmark. (Do not put F.P.E. on the envelope.)

Nature: See "Beaumont Society" in the England listings.

ASSOCIATION BEAUMONT CONTINENTALE: Gaby Linsig, 2 Rue des Charpentiers, 68270 Wittenheim, France.

Nature: See "Beaumont Society" in the England listings.

TRANSIDENTITAS: Transidentitas, Menschen Mit Abweichender Geschlects Identitat, Postfach 10 10 46, 6050 Offenbach GERMANY Phone: 069 8001008

Nature: Support group for transvestites and transsexuals.

Services: Inquire

FOREIGN

ELIZABETH CLUB: Ant Trading Company, Sakata Building, 1-12 Iwamoto-cho Kanda, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101, Japan. (Address no good! Mail returned!)

Nature: The Elizabeth Club was established in 1979 for transsexuals, androgynes, and transgenderists. We are located in major centers such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya.

Services: We offer storage facilities for our members. We also have consultants available for helping members with make-up and dressing. There is a rental service of clothing, wigs, and other related items for members. The Club also publishes a magazine called "Queen" every other month. This magazine serves as a source of information to members on activities and events in Japan.

NATIONAL SEAHORSE CLUB OF AUSTRALIA: ATTN: Lynda Ailion, Box 89, Norwood, S.A. 5067, Australia. Details of activities and services forthcoming. See Seahorse - Sydney, below.

THE SEAHORSE CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY: The Secretary, Box 146, Ulladulla, New South Wales 2538, Australia..

Nature: The Seahorse Club is a non-profit social organization for transvestites and families. Seahorse welcomes new members and overseas visitors, offering support to those of us unable to emerge by means of affiliate membership.

Services: Seahorse distributes information on shopping, coming events, and being femme through a monthly newsletter to members. Meetings provide friendship, beauty assistance, and help with related matters.

Security: Seahorse places strong emphasis on security for all members and requires screening of prospective members before attending meetings. However, no screening is required of affiliate members (who are not advised of meeting places) unless they wish to become full members. Overseas members are screened in the same way; overseas visitors must either be screened or have accreditation from a similar (Beaumont, Tiffany, etc.) organization.

SEAHORSE CLUB OF QUEENSLAND: Box 628, Gympie, Queensland, Australia. Complete details of activities not yet available.

THE SEAHORSE SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES - GLEBE: c/o Bernadette Cross, Box 168, Westgate, N.S.W., 2048.

Nature: See Seahorse - Sydney, above.
Services: Likewise refer to Seahorse - Sydney.
Security: Inquire.

THE SEAHORSE CLUB OF VICTORIA: SCV, c/o GPO Box 2337V, Melbourne, VICTORIA, Australia. Jan Baxter, President.

Nature: The largest continuously active club in Australia. A non-profit, non-sexual social/support organization for crossdressers and their families.

Services: SCV regularly publishes the Seahorse Victoria newsletter. We sponsor social activities, outings, and related events.

Security: Inquire.

THE ELAINE BARRIE PROJECT: EBP, Box 405, Altona, Victoria 3018, Australia; tele 369-2613.

Nature: A non-profit self-help group for TVs and TSs. Self-funding and self-supporting.

Services: Regular monthly social meetings and education projects throughout the year. A large reading and video sex education library with emphasis on genuine TV- and TS-related issues. Guest speakers. Publish the Nu-Scene newsletter.

Security: Almost anyone over the age of 18 (TV, TS, helping professional, families, friends, and significant others) is welcome. One factor takes precedence over all others: that the visitor or member behaves in a civilized manner and bears us no ill will.

NEW ZEALAND - HEDESTHIA: Hedesthia Central, Box 78-026, Grey Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand.

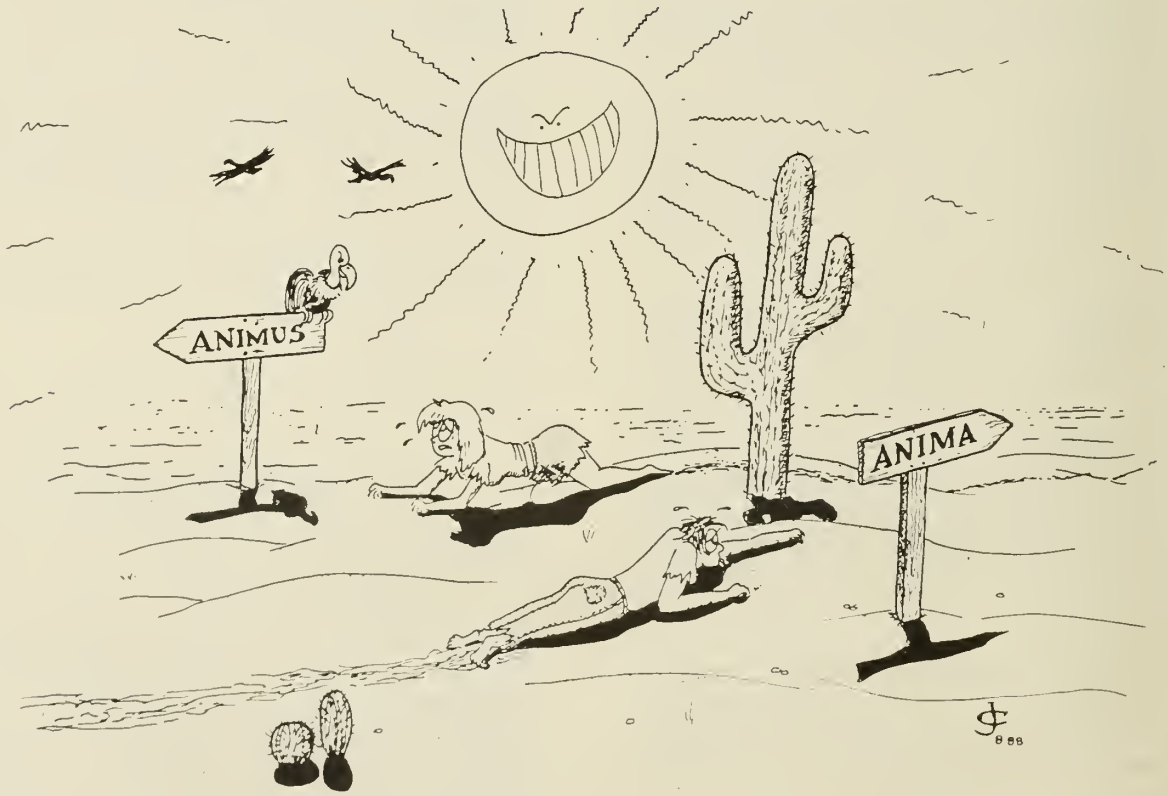
Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society.

SOUTH AFRICA - THE PHOENIX SOCIETY: Box 375, Parow, 7500, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa. Marlene Knoetze, President.

Nature: Affiliated with the Beaumont Society. The Phoenix Society is a non-profit, non-sexual social organization with an open membership policy.

Services: Publishes Fanfare magazine, actively trying to change attitudes in South Africa. Creating support groups in all major cities. Provides contacts.

Security: New members are "sponsored" by full members. All lists are confidential.



(Cartoon: Christine Wilson) (Explanation: There is a growing emergence of female-to-male crossdressers and a growing interestt in such concepts as "androgyny" and "Yin & Yang", and in "Jungian Psychology". "Anima" and "Animus" are terms from Jungian psychology. "Anima" is the hidden feminine principle in males, and "animus" is the hidden masculine principle in females. The cartoon depicts the near desperate desire for males to be in harmony with their elusive anima and females to be in harmony with their animus, or, more fundamentally, all people to be in harmony with their total being.) (Another reason this cartoon is being featured is because it contains the most sadistic looking sun I've ever seen, and a buzzard that looks more like a dyspeptic parrot. - MSL)

PERSONAL LISTINGS

PERSONAL LISTINGS OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communications for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of IFGE.)

2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communications.

3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the people who are members of the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community.

WHO MAY PLACE A PERONAL LISTING:

To place a personal listing, you must be an up-to-date General Subscriber (or IFGE Supporting Member). As a subscriber your personal listing is free of charge for the duration of your subscription. Also, your mail will be forwarded at no cost to you.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL LISTING:

1.) If the address is given in the personal listing, write directly to that address.

2.) If there is no address given, follow these instructions exactly:

A.) Place your letter in an unstamped envelope.

B.) Pencil in the name, State prefix, and membership number (given at the bottom of the listing). (Be sure to use pencil so the name can be erased.)

C.) Include **$1.00** (for postage and handling) for each piece to be forwarded.

D.) Place the letters to be forwarded inside another envelope, and mail to: TAPESTRY, P.O. BOX 367, WAYLAND, MA 01778

MASSACHUSETTS

AUDREY M (Eastern MA) (#50)
Member: Tiffany Club
MWM bi-TV, 52, 155, 5'10, nice, intelligent, well adjusted, sense of humor. Enjoys current events, music, sailing, photography, woodworking. Would like to have a few TV friends for casual get-togethers; freedom limited to weekdays 9-6.
Neil Moses, Box 66, Allston, MA 02134

JANICE H (MA) (#50)
Member: Tri-Ess
Participant: Fantasia Fair (4 times)
DWM hetero TV, 60, 5'6", 150, brown hair and blue eyes. A little on the quiet side, but makes friends easily. Doesn't smoke.
Interests: Eating out in a nice restaurant, loves country music, good movies, and dressing up. "Will answer all letters."
Janice H. (MA-0254)

PAULA RIORDAN (MA) (#50)
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Fantasia Fair
MWM hetero TV, (#50)s, 5'8", 160, soft spoken, easy going, friendly.
Interests: History, philosophy, religion, cosmetology, fashion, cooking and ballet. "I am happy being 'Paula', and I enjoy conversation & correspondence with friends I have met through the Tiffany Club and the Tapestry. Although opportunities are limited, I pass fairly well, & enjoy going out with friends."
Paula Riordan, c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

MARCIA JOHNSON (MA) (#50)
Attractive TV, 5'9", 140, 38
Interests: Jogging (finished Boston Marathon), golf, tennis, avid sports fan.
"I like to go shopping, party at clubs, and dine at fine restaurants. I'm friendly and outgoing. I would like to meet TVs, TSs who would enjoy dining out, dancing at clubs, and shopping at malls."
Marcia J (MA-0666)

VALERIE VINCENT (BOS MA) (#52)
5 feet 10", 150, beautiful dressed, like to meet women who will go shopping with me and have a girl-girl relationship. Will be available for photo sessions. Can have fun shopping, talking, going to lunch. Just being best girlfriends. Told I make a very, feminine, convinc-

(Janice H. MA-0254)

ing woman. Am well known in TV circles. Wear Nail 1 1/2 inches long. Have 2 picture albums, Centerfold in worldwide TV periodical.

V.P. Puleo, Box 8341, J.F.K. Station, Boston, MA, 02114

JUDY LEIGH S. (N.E. MA) (#50)

Member: Tiffany Club

Married TV, 47, 5'4", pleasant, shy. "I enjoy all sports & travel & dance music, plus just having a good time with good friends. I like to get dressed & go for rides to visit other friends."

Judy S., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

ROXANNE (RUSTY) GRANT (E MA) (#50)

SWM, 5'8", 33, slim, likes dressing but doesn't pass well. Quiet, private, discrete, intelligent, honest.

Interests: Music, dance, good fun and good friends. Enjoys sexy clothing & nylons. Enjoys sports, reading. "I would like to meet other TVs or TSs for friendship. Not interested in short term friends. Would like help with make-up and someone to have discrete talks with."

R. Grant, P.O. Box 161, Harwich, MA 02645

SUSAN A. (SE MA) (#52)

MWM TV, 30's, 5'7", 140.

Interests: Collecting and wearing all kinds of lingerie, TV literature. Would like to meet others with similar interests. "I've been kind of away from the TV scene for a while, but am hoping to get active again soon.

Susan A. (MA-0064)

MARCIA G. (MA) (#49)

Member: Tiffany

MWM hetero, 5'7", 43, full figured, dark complexion. Likes to dress, especially for formal occasions.

Marcia Gilbert, P.O. Box 632, Littleton, MA 01460

CHERYL LYNN M. (MA) (#49)

Member: Tiffany College student, 6', 22, with a pretty, slender figure.

(Valerie V. MA-0273)

Interests: Sports, music, acting. Also, sexy but tasteful feminine clothing, especially lace dresses and high heeled shoes. "I would like to pursue further in my lifestyle as Cheryl, and hope to make friends with other TVs & TSs."

Cheryl Lynn Michaels (MA-1157)

LORRAINE L. (E. MA) (#49)

Member: Seahorse Club Australia, Tiffany

English, 31, TV since 12, with strong TS desires, passes easily, married. "I want to meet TSs and TVs, and to be seen & treated as a woman."

Lorraine L. (MA-1156)

SUSAN ELIZABETH R. (MA) (#49)

SWM TV, 53, 6', 180, brown hair, hazel eyes. Interests: Photography, treasure hunting, 40's & (#50)'s music, dogs, nature, & being a lady. "I would like to correspond with other girls in E. Mass., especially Metro-West area."

Susan Elizabeth R. (MA-0839)

BOBBIE N. (E. MA) (#49)

SWM, 37, 5'9", 155 enjoy lingerie, nylons & sexy outfits. I have been interested in dressing since I was 12, but have not actively pursued until recently. would like to meet or correspond with TVs, females or couples who could provide help and guidance. Travel East, Midwest & West extensively."

Bobbi N. (MA-1203)

LISA C. (E. MA) (#49)

Bi-WM, 27, 22, 5'10". Enjoys skiing, camping, sailing, going shopping, dressing up. "I'm looking for someone to get me out of the closet. I also want to meet TVs & TSs for friendships."

Lisa C. (MA-1202)

CYNTHIA CRANE (SE MA) (#49)

MWM hetero crossdresser, 40, 6', sensitive and discrete. Interests: Computers, tele-communications, video tape, music, TV fantasies & bondage, tight clothing correspondence with others of like interests. "I love being dressed in nylon, satin, and leather. I would like to exchange books, fantasies, and thoughts about enforced crossdressing."

Cynthia C. (MA-0843)

SHARON MC. (SE MA) (#49)

Member: Tiffany, FACT

Participant: Fantasia Fair

SWM TV/TS, 32, 5'11", 135, enjoys being feminine. Enjoys travel, skiing, all types music, old coins & cars. Would like to correspond with other TVs & TSs her age with same interests.

Sharon Mc. (MA-0504)

SUSAN C. (E. MA) (#49)

Member: Tri Ess Tall, slender, pleasant looking, novice cross-dresser with much to eagerly learn.

Interests: Cross-dressing (of course), movies, plays, reading, writing, soul-searching. "I would like to write to someone of similar interests & stage of X-dressing development, 'real women', & more advanced TVs & TSs. I would like to both learn & teach."

Susan C. (MA-1238)

(Holly Cross MA-0379)

(Gloria Robins MA-1354)

VALERIE PAULSON (E. MA) (#49)

Member: Tiffany
Participant: Fantasia Fair
Awards: 'Miss Cinderella'

41, 6', 140, separated. "As a man I wear women's clothes & make-up almost every day. My nails are long and painted, and usually wear earrings. At work I'm still treated like any other engineer. Although I can 'pass', my dream is to just be myself. I would love to meet other like-minded people, male or female, for mutual support and sharing."

Valerie Parker, PO Box 2217, Peabody, MA 01960

CHARISE MICHELLE S. (MA) (#50)

SWM, hetero, 33, 5'11", 160, fun loving, friendly, trustworthy, dyed in the wool feminist.

Interests: Advancing my femininity & the woman within. Enjoys movies (sci-fi, comedy, romantic, music (no hard rock), cooking, computers. "I am interested in making contacts in the TV/TS world. Will answer all. For those in E. MA. let's get together, cook up a storm & go see a movie."

Charise S. (MA-0427)

SYLVIA C. (MA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess
6'2", grey haired dedicated cross-dresser.

Interests: Cross-dressing, enjoying status as a woman whenever possible. "I love makeup, fancy dresses, high heels, nylons, etc. Enjoy being a girl."

Sylvia C. (MA-0189)

HOLLY CROSS (MA) (#50)

IFGE Board of Directors, Member: Tiffany

Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, IFGE Convention, Shangri-La, Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos Outing

SWM TV, mid-60's. Lives alone except for a dog, four cars (one runs) a lot of VHF ham gear and about 200 size 20 outfits. Is fairly active, goes to many concerts dressed, and has been to over 15 outings. Looks like a proper Boston lady, and is having a 'hell' of a good time. "I try to answer all the interesting letters, but no guarantee."

Holly C., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

ROBIN E. OLSON (E. MA) (#50)

Pre-op TS, 28, blonde hair blue eyes. Enjoys tennis, skiing, horseback riding. Would like to hear from other TSs who are into the joy of womanhood. Needs friends for support in making the change totally.

Robin E. (MA-1353)

JACKIE G. (E. MA) (#50)

Member: Tiffany

40, 6', 170, blue eyes, brown hair, very interested in being feminine. A warm caring person that lives to be feminine. Size 16, good looking hopefully desirable.

Interests: Reading, snuggling, dressing up, music and more snuggling. Loves hosiery. "Want very much to share and give my femininity to someone. Willing to be guided. Hopefully my love for what I want to be will make me be a special woman for someone."

Jackie G. (MA-0275)

HEATHER DAWN ANDERSON (E. MA)(#50)

Member: Tiffany

MWM TV, 36, 5'11", 130, crossdressing since childhood. Interests: Music (rock to classical), song writing, cooking, running. "I want to let my femininity blossom. I'm sensitive and caring. I enjoy long walks on the seashore accompanied by intimate conversation and fun. I need some TV/TS companionship."

Heather A. (MA-0661)

AVA K. (E. MA) (#50)

TV, 27, 5'6", 135, attractive, outgoing artist. Open and unconservative. Interests: Playing/listening to music (punk rock, reb, old jazz). Other interests revolve around art and crossdressing. Only recently discovered TV/TS Community. Would like to meet other TVs for dressing, shopping, going out, friendship.

Ava K. (MA-1385)

(Christy S. MA-0649)

DIANE G. (MA) #50)
Bi-M TV, 33, 5'6", 160, brown hair & eyes. Seeking another like myself for friendship.
Diane G. (MA-1380)

STEPHENIE R. (E. MA) (#50)
MWM TV, 40, 5'11", 165, attractive. Enjoys film production, sailing, skiing, and of course all things feminine. "I'm just coming out and would love to share my dreams."
Stephenie R. (MA-1411)

JOANNA A. (E. MA) (#50)
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing
WM, 30, 5'8", 140, blue-eyed blonde, cute, well built, clean, healthy, discreet, nice manner. Interests: Metaphysics. Has interests from A to Z, and would enjoy most everything with the right company. Not speedy on correspondence. Looking for intimate friendships, fun, excitement. Maybe an FI career, who knows! Phone, photos, SASE appreciated.
Joanna A. (MA-1430)

RISE CARMEN (E. MA)
(#51)
MWM, 6', 57, and self conscious about being overweight. Closet TV. Interests: Likes Basie, Kenton, Miller & Dorsey, Mr. B and Sarah, dancing & girl talk. Just emerging and needs help in selecting wardrobe and other things. Wife objects, so I have problems. Will answer all.
Occupant, P.O. Box 13, Essex, MA 01929

MICHELLE H. (MA)
(#51)
Attractive GWM TV/TS, 30, 5'9", 1(#50), passes easily and loves to be feminine. Would like to hear from other girls interested in fashion, quiet talks, movies, shopping, etc. "I'm very sincere and caring and will answer all replies. Thanks.
Michelle H. (MA-0576)

GAYLE W. (MA)
(#52)
MWM, 40, 5'8", size 14, quiet, friendly, and active. Enjoy cooking, antiques, shopping and going out to dinner & theater. Like to swim and entertain. "I prefer the feminine side of my personality and enjoy being a woman without guilt, I would like to help others do the same.
Gayle W. (MA-0243)

STACEY G. (E. MA) (#50)
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing
SWM, 28, 6'1", 175, strong TS inclinations. Interests: Writing, film humor, music, animation, & graphics. "I am constantly striving to integrate my femme self into my everyday life. Would like to get to know other TSs with advise and perspective and other girls active in TV/TS Community."
Stacy G., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

CHRISTY LAWRENCE (MA) (#50)
MWM, 30, 5'8". Interests: Bike racing, karate, and of course cross-dressing and all things feminine. Life-long TV presently living in closet and NO immediate plans of coming out. Hoping to find friends on South Shore for support and guidance.
Christy L (MA-1195)

DIANA E. MARSHALL (MA) (#51)
Member: Tiffany
SWM TV, 40, 5'6", 125, loves all things feminine.
Interests: Music and stereo equipment, photography, acrylic and oil painting. "I would like to go out more as a woman. Would like to meet new friends, and attend Tiffany functions."
Diana M. (MA-0886)

(Joanna A. MA-1430)

LILA WALTON (W. MA) (#52)
Naturally inclined this way I do pass well and enjoy being accepted. Interests: Contemporary theater, acting, poetry and poetry readings, folk music, Irish songs and ballads. "I love to be out among people in nice places, when I can do this. I like to talk a lot, and I listen."
L. Walton, 55 Commons Drive #36, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

GLORIA ROBINS (E. MA) (#51)
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Fantasia Fair '87
MWM TV, 43, professional person. Interested in psychological aspects of crossdressing, feminism, and androgyny.
"The most important thing I've ever done is to accept myself as Gloria. Interested in expressing my feminine qualities both as Gloria and as Glenn. Interested in meeting like-minded persons, and providing support to TVs who feel confused or guilty.
Gloria Robins, c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

SUE FANON (W. MA) (#52)
SWM TV, 32, 5'10", 160, brown eyes & hair, easy going, clean, understanding, loving & sincere.
Interests: Dressing up & being feminine, lingerie, makeup, travel, & meeting new friends.
"I am a novice TV who enjoys being feminine and would like to enjoy sincere friendships with fellow 'sisters'. I would like to correspond or meet a pre- or post-op transsexual."
Sue F. (MA-0983)

MICHELLE C. (MA) (#52)
Bi-MWM TV, 32, 175, 6'.
Interests: Music, chardonnays, lingerie, quiet relaxed dinners. Looking to meet intelligent, sophisticated TV/TS's for intimate friendships. Will answer all who send photos.
Michelle C., DLD Suite 572, 310 Franklin St, Boston, MA 02116

JAMIE LOREN (MA) (#52)
5'8", 145, green eyes, brown hair, attractive, perceptive, friendly, socially adjusted.
Interests: Music, reading, socializing, friendship only, astrology, fashion, hair styling.
"I am seeking people who are real about themselves and life's values. Not interested in sex or BS. Serious minded persons only."
Jamie Loren, P.O. Box 221, Dorchester, MA 02122-0002

RACHEL LYNN (MA) (#52)
5'9", 145, separated. At early stage of pre-op TS M-F. Live as Rachel, work as male.
"Would like to meet other gals for friendship and sharing feminine interests, makeup, hormones, and sexy clothes. Looking for long-term friendships to help find myself."
Rachel Lynn, P.O. Box 293, N. Billerica, MA 01862

ELIZABETH ASHLEY NEAL (MA)(#52)
6', brown hair, brown eyes. 41, non-smoker. Loves high heels. Would like to write and receive letters.
Elizabeth N. (MA-1728)

NEW ENGLAND

MERISSA SHERRILL LYNN (NH)
Executive Director I.F.G.E., Editor In Chief TV/TS Tapestry, Director 'Coming Together' Convention
Awards: Dr. Prince 'Lifetime Contribution' award
SWM TV, 46, 6', 200, BA philosophy, athletically oriented (pro skier 8 years), ACBL (bridge) life master. A caring person, sincerely interested in the well-being of others.
Interests: Folk singing, bridge, skiing, the

(Merissa Sherrill Lynn, IFGE Director)

wilderness, the flowers, and listening to the birds sing. Also interested in philosophy. "I'm sorry but I cannot respond to personal correspondence. However, I'm very interested in hearing from people who would like to become 'leaders', and are willing to put out some effort on behalf of the TV/TS Community. So, if you are a leader/worker-type person and willing to put out some effort to help others, write to me, or better, give me a call."

Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Box 367, Wayland MA 01778 (617) 358-2305

KAREN ANN NIELSEN (ME) (#50)
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Tiffany's P-town Outing
MWM hetero cross-dresser (since adolescence), 5'4", 130, friendly, happy, enjoys people, places, & things. Interests: Photography, walking, clothes, dining out, shopping, nature. "I would enjoy corresponding and exchanging photos with other crossdressers. I would also enjoy discreet shopping trips and dining out while dressed."
Karen Ann N (ME-0787)

HELEN TIBBETTS (NH) (#49)
IFGE Board of Directors
Member: Tiffany
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Tiffany's P-town Outing, Tiffany WSG Outing
MWM TV, 47, 5'11". Tiffany & I.F.G.E. Board of Directors. Hopes to make social contacts within the TV-TS Community.
Helen T., c/o Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778

DAWN H. (CT) (#49)
Member: Tiffany SWM, 5/10", 40, slim build, college educated, enjoys the company of others. Interests: Being feminine as much as possible, camping, water skiing, loves summer and Florida. "I would like to be able to go out as my femme self more. Would like to correspond with others of similar interests."
Dawn H (CT-0858)

BOBBIE JEAN G. (ME) (#49)
5'10", 170, military officer, sometimes passible, wishes to understand crossdressing & TS psychologically and medically. Needs to speak with TSs to discuss what they had to sacrifice to be TS. Professional medical person needs more personal experienced information. Would like to start a club in Maine. Bobbie G. (ME-1155)

AMANDA JOSEPHS (CT) (#49)
Member: Tiffany, Tri Ess, NGA
MWM hetero TV, 52, 5'9", 1, prim, proper, passable. Prefers one on one situations. Interests: Classical music, museums, theatre, foreign films, old cars, and economics.
Amanda Josephs (CT-0290)

JENNIFER W. (CT) (#49)
"I enjoy swimming, reading, music (esp C&W), and of course crossdressing. Have loving understanding wife who just loves Jennifer. I would like to meet any & all TVs like myself, and couples. Am very sincere."
Jennifer W. (CT-0921)

MARGO F. (NH) (#50)
5'7", 155, WM. Interests: Guitar playing, furniture building, skiing, biking, hiking, talking about new ideas. "Have always felt the woman in myself, but have never acted on it. Now I would like to communicate with others, especially couples who have adjusted to the TV lifestyle. Would love to have someone special dress me up."
Margo F (NH-1266)

DEVON A. (CT) (#50)
Member: XX Club
SWM pre-op TS, 31, 5'11", 145Interests: Literature, writing (fiction), classical music, Beatles, computers. "I've known I was TS since early childhood, but I'm only now coming out. I have been on hormones 1 year. I'm shy and scared. Tend to be a loner, but I make good, though not lots of friends. I would like to correspond with others with similar likes and fears."
Devon A. (CT-1267)

CAROLE T. (NH) (#50)
Love music, theatre, cooking and being Carole. Just coming out after many false starts. Anxious to correspond with and meet others. Will answer all ASAP! Pictures appreciated.
Carole Thomas, PO Box 3057, Nashua, NH 03060

GWENNETH H. (ME) (#50)
5'7", 35, very early in planned transition-Interests: Reading science fiction, working around house. "Very little experience. Have not 'come out' in public, but am working toward that happy moment."
Gwenneth H. (ME-1270)

SAL C. (CT) (#50)
Retired, lifelong closet TV. I would like to hear from anyone who knows of TVs or TSs in combinations with blindness. Occupant, PO Box 81(#50), Manchester, CT 06040

PAULA B. (ME) (#50)
Married WM, 5'9", 165, 43, almost hairless from head down. Loves crossdressing, outdoor activities, sports, interior decorating, cooking. "I want to meet and correspond with other crossdressers, pre-op TSs, etc. for mutual friendships, education, and fun."
Paula B. (ME-1300)

JANET PATTERSON (RI) (#50)
MWM TC, (#50)s, young looking, passable, college educated. Interests: Swimming, golf, photography, computers and cross-dressing. Seeking friendship, photo exchange, correspondence and possible meeting with other TVs. Will answer all.
J. Patterson, PO Box 1067, Westerly, RI 02891

BILLIE R. (NH) (#50)
SWM, 44, 5'9", 180. Enjoys hunting, boating, reading, meeting other TVs. Loves sexy clothes, make-up, high heels. Has own home so can entertain or travel. Enjoys dating as a girl or guy.
Billie R. (NH-1347)

MICHELLE K. (CT) (#51)
Hetero WM TV, 5'10", 47, attractive, sincere, quiet. Interests: Swimming, cross-country skiing, music, theatre. Looking for honest caring and helpful TV or female individuals. Occupant, P.O. Box 10(#50)8, West Hartford, CT 06110

CAROLANN E. DURETTE (NH) (#51)
Pre-op TS woman, late 30's, 5'9", blue eyes, light brown hair, fair complexion. Has cross-lived now for 4 years. Interests: Reading good books, eating good food, listening to folk music,and romance with the right person. "I hope to have S.R.S. by the end of 1988. I love to correspond with other TS women. I would like

(Ronda D. RI-1527)

to meet that special someone to share the rest of my life with."

Carolann E. Durette, 314 Thornton St, Manchester, NH 03102

KERRI R. (NH) (#51)

DWM, Hetero, TV who has become comfortable with herself and wishes to reach out and further experience herself. Would like to make contact with others in the NH/VT area. Enjoy many outdoor activities. Spend part of most days as my second self and wish to learn more about transgender passage. Not a great correspondent but will try to answer quickly.
Kerri R. (NH-1095)

(Karen Nielsen ME-0787)

DARLENE S. ROSS (CT) (#51)

(#50)'s, 5'8", 160, gray hair (natural), looks younger than age, not an extrovert. Interests: Cross-dressing, photography, travel, sports (passive), music,reading. "I'm not ready yet to pass, would like to if had some support and help from someone who does pass. Not Bi, would like to correspond (photo exchange) & possibly meet others who are in the area who share this situation for mutual satisfaction."
Darlene R. (CT-0838)

MICHELLE K. (CT) (#52)

MWM Hetero, 5'10", blue eyes, light brown hair. Enjoy swimming, theater, and travel.

Michelle K., Box 10508, W. Hartford, CT 06110

(Dee Dee W. CT-0002)

RONDA D. (RI) (#51)

28, 6'1", blue-green eyes, hair usually (not always) black. Nice legs. "I like all sports and being active. I have not been out on the town or even met other TVs. I would very much like to meet more people and talk about everything from dreams to fears. My TV feelings are getting harder to fight and talking to someone who understands would be so helpful to me."

Ronda D. (RI-1527)

MONICA WHITNEY (S. NH) (#51)

Member: Tiffany

SWM, Bi TV, 26, 6', 165. Interests: Music, movies, dancing, dining out and dressing up when I can. "I'm just coming out of closet, and would love to meet other TVs & TSs and understanding women for fun and friendship."

Monica W. (NH-1528)

LEE ARSNAL (ME) (#52)

MWM closet TV, 5'10", brown hair, good personality. Enjoys dressing and being as feminine as possible. Would like to meet and/or correspond with others.

Spends time in Florida each year, and would love to hear from others between Maine and Florida. Will Respond to all letters.

Lee A. (ME-0247)

(Billie R. NH-1347)

JANINE D. (RI) (#52)

5'9", 140, auburn hair, blue eyes. Enjoys fashion photography, & computers.

"Would like to meet and befriend other transgendered individuals."

Jan, P.O. Box 562, Coventry, RI 02816

(Carol Ann Durette NH-0890)

RENEE CARROLL (CT) (#52)

SWM hetero TV, 40+, 6'+. Interests range from American history to the causes of transgenderism. Also enjoys cooking, travel and outdoor pursuits, photography, and the feminine gender role.

Renee C. (CT-0292)

SHERRY T. (CT) (#52)

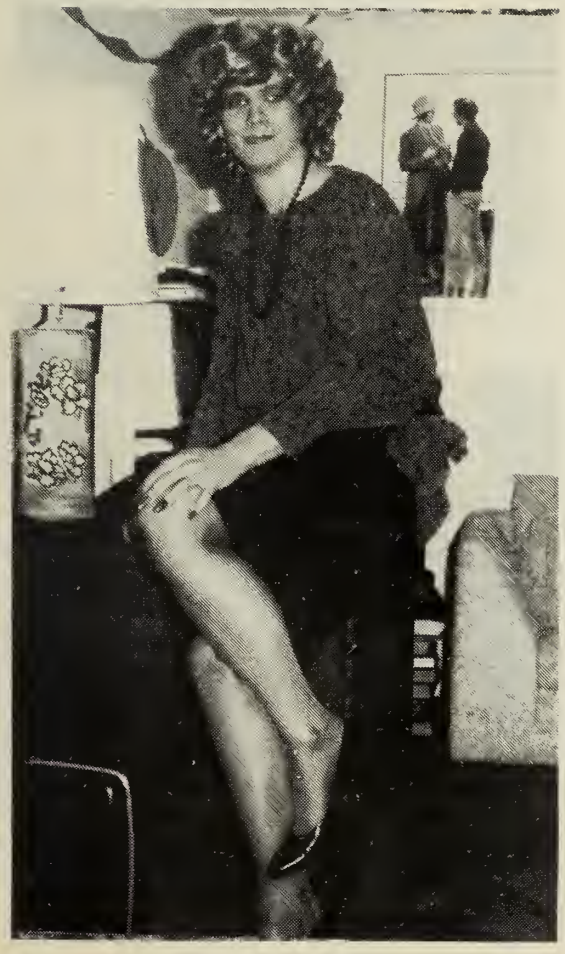
5'10", 150, SWM, 35.

Enjoys photography, music, quiet nights, shopping, and partying.

Sherry T. (CT-1680)

(michelle K. CT-1490)

(Lee A. ME-0247)



(Monica Whitney NH-1528)

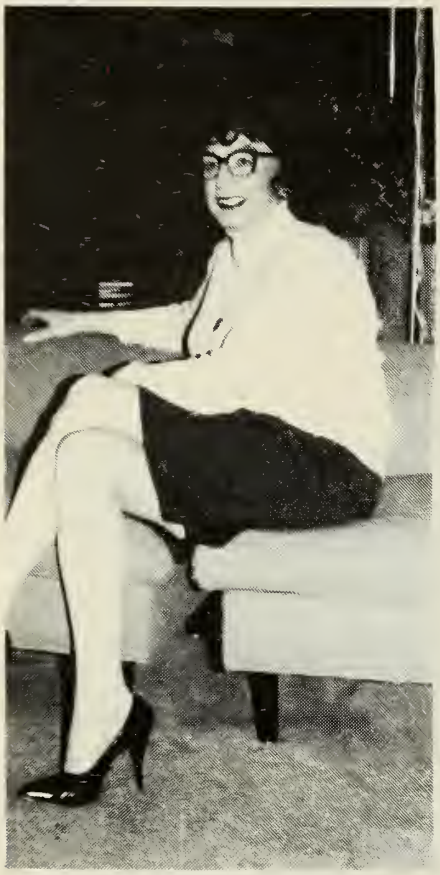
Robin Hendrickson CT-1681)

ROBIN HENDRICKSON (CT) (#52)

TS, 30, 5'9", 170, married to supportive wife, enjoys being a woman.

"I am interested in meeting other married TV/TS people around the CT area, and will correspond with all who write. Interested in socializing, partying, shopping, etc., and meeting others like myself."

Robin Hendrickson, P.O. Box 1011, Bristol, CT 06010



(Carla Goldsneider CT-0212)

(Terri W. NY-1241)

MICHELLE MICHAELS (VT) (#52)

MWM TV, 38, 6', 190, 3 kids. Works hard but loves being a TV.

Interests: Bike riding, self improvement, friendships, my family, my career. Very sensitive, yet outgoing and aggressive. Interested in working, weight control, self esteem, and finding a sincere support network as a TV.

Michelle Michaels, P.O. Box 362, Jericho, VT 05465-0362

NEW YORK

LYNDA D. (E. NY) (#49)

MWM TV, 33, shy. Would like to learn more about dressing, make-up & mannerisms. Would like to correspond and also meet others who are sensible & discreet.

Lynda D. (NY-0775)

SHANNON MICHAELS (W. NY) (#49)

Member: Butterfly SWM-F post-op TS. Interests: Travel, motorcycling, camping, art, photography, & butterflies. "I'm interested in meeting TVs and other TSs. Try to dedicate much of my free time educating the community. It always gives me pleasure when someone is helped. I feel that since I no longer teach art it is no reason that I can't teach."

Shannon Michaels, P.O. Box (#50)71, Vestal, NY 138(#51)

(Delores M. NY-0808)

KATE MORRISEN (L.I. NY) (#49)

Member: Butterfly MWM hetero TV, 6'1", 40, attractive when dressed, but still in the closet. Interests: Writing, music, computers, biking and photography. Loves collecting and wearing all feminine clothing, especially lingerie. "I want to hear from all other TVs, TSs, and women. Let's share our ideas about dressing up as well as exchanging our feminine fantasies."

Kate Morrisen, P.O. Box 20, jericho, NY 11753

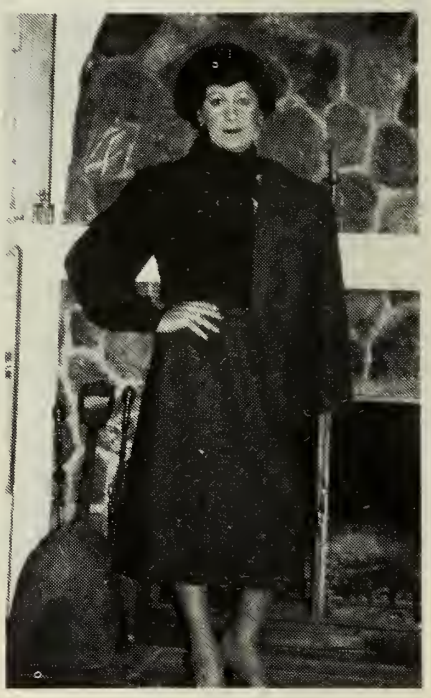
TRENNA MARIE M. (W. NY) (#49)

Member: Tri Ess

Participant: Wine Country WE

Hetero TV, 62, 178, 5'8", has been dressing 52 years. Supportive wife. Interests: Winston Cup stock car racing, railroading, sewing, being feminine. "Love to go out dressed, but can't in my area. Love to write and will answer all."

Trenna Marie (NY-0623)



((Bonnie K. NY01186)

RENEE CHEVALIER (N. NY) (#49)

IFGE Board of Directors

Member: Tiffany, TGIC, EON, Butterfly

Participant: P-town WSG Outing, Wine Country WE

Awards: The MSL Service Award

MWM, 5'9", 1(#50), passable at times, a supporter and hard worker on gender issues. Editor TGIC Newsletter. Interests: Varied and many, photography, carpentry. "I enjoy helping others through TGIC and bringing out newcomers to the Community." Renee Chevalier, P.O. Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604

JEANETTE M. (NYC NY) (#49)

Member: Tiffany

MWM Older TV, 5'10", 145, blue eyes, 2" long fingernails, slim, good looking, passable, sociable. Interests: Photography, travel, pets, fashion, makeup, long nails. Also, all TV/TS femme activities, makeup, fashion, golf, good restaurants, cruising Caribbean, shopping. Wants to make some lasting friendships.

Jeanette M (NY-1149)

JAN ALYCE V. (NYC NY) (#49)

SWM TV, 39, 5'11", 175. Has recently resumed crossdressing after a 9-year absence. "I enjoy ballet & opera, and running for physical & mental well being. I want to move further out of the closet & develop Jan's femininity. I would enjoy corresponding to share experiences &

(Ren'ee Chevalier, IFGE Board of Directors)

provide mutual support in feminine development."

Jan V (NY-1187)

BONNIE K. (W. NY) (#49)

Member: EON

MWM, 38, 5'7", size 12, blue eyes and brown hair.

Interests: Sailing, cross-country skiing, and golf. Also, barbershop harmony and ship modeling. "I have a very supportive girlfriend who would also like to hear from other wives/ significant others. I live as Bonnie as much as possible and enjoy shopping, dining out and meeting other TVs and wives. Will answer all, and look forward to making many new friends."

Bonnie K. (NY-1186)

JOAN FASHIONS (N. NY) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess, NGA

MWM TV/TG, 5'10", 165, 52. Spends most weekends as Joan. Family very supporting. Complete freedom of expression. Active in NYC meetings and parties. Travel, shopping, weekend hotels, restaurants are all part of Joan's activities. Letters with photo will receive prompt response.

Joan Fashions, P.O. Box 1756 S. Rd Annex, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

RENEE' SLOCUM (W. NY) (#50)

SWM hetero, 29, 5'11", 160, college educated, shy. Interests: Photography, collecting small antiques, ballet & exercise, elegant feminine parties. "I would like to meet and correspond with other crossdressers and females in the Finger Lakes area."

Renee Slocum (NY-0651)

GINNY ALLISON D. (N. NY) (#49)

"I am interested in contacting, writing, and meeting others to build friendships and self confidence. I would like to improve enough to pass."

Ginny Allison D. (NY-1223)

DELORES MERHIGE (NY) (#49)

Member: NYGA, Serenity, L.I.F.E., Chi Delta Mu (President) Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, 'Coming Together' Married, middle-aged, 5'10", med build, engineer, life long TV. Interests: Fashion, clothes, makeup, socializing, music, art, photography, sailing, tennis, reading. "Promise to answer all mail as quickly as possible."

Delores Merhige, P.O. Box 327, Massapequa Park, NY 11762

TERI WHITE (S. NY) (#49)

Member: Tri Ess, NYGA

Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E

SBM CD, 30's, 5'7", 190, soft spoken, sociable, conservative, friendly. Interests: Cooking, graphic art (cartooning), music (pop - classical). "I have a strong involvement in Tri-State (NY, NJ, CT) community. Interested in networking and friendships for better communication throughout the sisterhood."

Teri W. (NY-1241)

(Trenna Marie M. NY-0623)

CAROL TAYLOR (W. NY) (#50)

MWM, 45, 165, lifelong crossdresser, almost guilt free, married to a wonderful, accepting (with healthy understandable questions), and helpful wife. Anxious to help others, especially couples, find an appropriate and comfortable place for some crossdressing to exist in their lives with minimal guilt and fear. We golf, ski, boat and work hard.

Carol Taylor (NY-0428)

JOANNA PAULINE (W. NY) (#52)

Member: Tri Ess, EON, TVA

Hetero TV, 40, engineer, 2 children, wife knows and is tolerant but finds acceptance hard.

Interests: Photography, cinema, home video, gardening, swimming. Hopes to meet new friends at the local meetings.

Joanna Pauline, BX-STS, PO Box 15731, Rochester, NY 14615 (716) 458-7633

(Jan Alyce V. NY-1187)

DIANE SLOTE (S.E. NY) (#50)

MWM, 40, enjoys music, camping, photography, fashion, & above all else, being feminine whenever possible. I'm interested in corresponding & meeting with people who will accept me as a woman. Due to family considerations, I'm unable to socialize much.

Diane S. (NY-0990)

AMANDA WALTER (N. NY) (#50)

MWM, 39, close to passing. Interests: Art, classical music, high-end audio, skiing. "Would like to hear from sisters who also have successful relations with wives, girlfriends. What is your secret?"

Amanda Walter, Box 4030, Glens Falls, NY 12801

VICKIE STONE (L.I. NY) (#52)

Member: LIFE, Chi Delta Mu

6', 180, life-long TV, out of closet since 1982, married, heterosexual, 2 kids. Wife not supportive, although aware. Attorney.

Interests: Skiing, writing (fiction & non-

fiction), music (former pro musician), guitar, electric bass, singing, song-writing. Would like to find TV ski bums to ski upstate NY & VT. Likes to travel. Encourages correspondence and will answer sooner or later. Enjoys working with novice TVs and taking them out. Extremely active in LIFE, and is one of the editors of LIFELINES, the club newsletter.

Vickie Stone, Box 121, Seaford, NY 11785

GLORIA F. (N. NY) (#50)

SWM, mid (#50)'s, 5'8", 155, shaved, quiet, conservative, discreet. Interests: Photography, classical music, opera, outdoors, home life & crossdressing. "I'm a lifelong TV, love being feminine, and interested in developing close, lasting friendships with other TVs. Love to live life as my fem self. I'm single and live alone in a small house in the country."

G. Fuhrman, P.O. Box 60, North River, NY 12856

GRETCHEN LYNCH (W. NY) (#51)

6'1", blue eyes, 195, good figure. Enjoys bike riding, hiking and crossdressing. Would like to meet other TVs in the Buffalo NY area. Would like to have dinner out.

Gretchen L., P.O. Box 231, Celeron, NY 14720

(Joanna Pauline NY-0973)

HELEN F. (N. NY) (#50)

Member: TGIC, Tiffany

Participant: Joyce Dewhurst's Poconos OutingNovice crossdresser, 35, long red hair, freckles, quiet and somewhat shy. Enjoys sailing and stained glass, and hopes to contact and become friends with more people involved in the TV-TS Community.

Helen F. (NY-1366)

JOANNE E. (S. NY) (#50)

Member: Tri-Ess

Interests: Shopping, photography, dressing up. Is interested in corresponding with other TVs and promises to answer all. Has very understanding wife who would like to hear from other wives and S.O.'s.

Joanne E., P.O. Box 310, Mohegan Lake, NY 10547

REGINA KING (W. NY) (#50)

5'7", occasional TV with strong femme self. Looking for correspondents and companions. Would love to dress-up with others nearby. Is bi, and has found a couple of women friends who enjoy CDs.

Regina King, Box 6601, Ithaca, NY 1(#51)

MICHELE P. (N.NY) (#51)

Member: TGIC

MWM, 39, 5'11", brown hair & eyesInterests: Dining out, dancing, high fashion, gourmet cooking, shopping. "Would like to correspond & meet other TVs or TSs, especially married TVs, for support and friendship."

Michele P. (NY-1534)

CORETTA GOODWIN (N. NY) (#51)

Member: Tri Ess

28, TV for 15 years, retail sales manager, husband & father. Enjoys making pottery, computers, toys, spy novels, comic books. Coretta G. (NY-1535)

(Joanne NY-)

BETTY PRINCE (NYC) (#50)

SW TS, blonde, 5'7", good looking, pleasant personality, shy, fun loving. Interests: Computers, all sports, reading, living as a woman. "I am a TS who would like to meet & make friends with other TSs & TVs who can help me to live as the woman I am. Just coming out of the closet."

Betty Prince, 2400 Dorsey St, Apt 3B, Bronx, NY 10461

(Connie Taylor NY-0434)

(Vickie Stone NY-1035)

(Candi Sue NY-1735)

((Jennifer Wells NY-1597)

JOANNE (NY) (#52)

6' tall, 240 lbs., married to supportive wife. interested in all aspects of crossdressing, high heels, lingerie, pretty dresses, makeup, etc. "I love to trade letters and photos with all my sisters. Promise to answer all who write with photo."

Joanne (NY-

JENNIFER WELLS (NY) (#52)

MWM, hetero TV, 5'11", 210#, blue eyes, 37. Wife tries to be understanding but doesn't participate. Very feminine appearing. Enjoy boating, water sports, writing poetry, building and gardening, wigs and makeup. "I like to help other TVs and TSs try and work through their problems. Am very active with TV/TS Support Group through CompuServe."

Jennifer Wells, Box 1417, Troy, NY 12181 (NY-1597)

FRANK C. (NY) (#52)

SWM, 45, 5'10", 180, brown eyes, hetero. Interests: Outdoors, fishing, hiking, and of course dressing up. "I'm interested in corresponding with and meeting other TVs, TSs, and women with whom I can be my feminine self."

Frank C. (NY-1584)

WINNIE BRANT (N. NY) (#52)

Member: Tiffany, Tri Ess, EON

Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair

Hetero TV, 50+, 6'2", a lady. Has many interests, scientific and culturally oriented. Loves to travel.

Mr W. Brant, Box 741, Schenectady, NY 12301

BARBARA B. (L.I. NY) (#52)

Member: NYCGA

MWM, 48, 5'10", 160. Wife does not approve.

Interests: Fashion, Music, dancing, new friends. Values friendship, honest, and discretion. Passable in public, but very nervous about it. Prefers all CD settings. just re-emerging from the closet after 3 years. Looking forward to enjoying our special sisterhood again!

Barbara B. (NY-0258)

DEE C. (W. NY) (#52)

Bi-SWM TV, 30ish, professional, college educated. Enjoys travel, clubbing, movies, video, golf, skiing.

Dee C. (NY-0708)

CONNIE TAYLOR (W. NY) (#52)

MWM elderly hetero TV, 5'5", 125, with supportive wife. Likes clean cut clothes and tall heels. Loves to correspond and all letters promptly answered.

Connie Taylor, Box 0734, Jamestown, NY 14702

KATHI FERRIS (N. NY) (#51)

52, 5'8", slim, dark haired. Enjoys folk and rock music, reading, writing, poetry, fiction, and philosophy.

"I would like to meet others in the Bennington, VT area who crossdress or are understanding about it."

Kathi F. (NY-1677)

ROXEY PISANI (W. NY) (#51)

Enjoys music, fashionable clothes, makeup, cosmetics, reading.

Roxey Pisani, 72 Hill Court Circle, Apt E, Rochester, NY 14621

JULIE ANN C. (N. NY) (#51)

TV, cannot remember since when, it's been so long ago, and still going strong. 49, 4'9"

Was a member of Albany TVI C and FPE. Will answer all letters.

Julie Ann C. (NY-1695)

MISSY B. (NY) (#52)

5'8", 152, medium build, mahogany colored brown eyes.

Interests: Music, composing, listening, poetry, studying stock cars, meditating, exercis-

(Barbara B. NY-0258)

ing, observing nature.

"I love positive persons who don't put down others for their own self-glory and those who believe in uplifting another no matter the status or color."

Missy B. (NY-1716)

CANDACE SUSANN (W. NY) (#52)

"I'm 30-something, tall, have green eyes, and usually red hair. I have one high-heeled foot out of the closet, and looking forward to stepping the rest of the way out. I adore feminine fashions, and enjoy science, nature, psychology, stimulating conversation, emotional release, shopping malls, and writing. Have prepared a sincere photodiary. My wife is tolerant (at best) of this part of my life, and I need open communication. Please write!"

Ms Candace Susann, c/o P.O. Box 852, Derby, NY 14047

NEW JERSEY, PENNSYLVANIA

KAREN V. (N. NJ) (#49)

Member: Tiffany

SWM hetero TV, 38, 5'8, 155, good personality and sense of humor. Adventouress. "A classical music nut, I also enjoy card & word games, karate (black belt), skiing, and gourmet food. I would like to meet women who share some of these interests and are open minded about the cross dressing scene.

Karen V (NJ-0347)

SHEILA KIRK (W. PA) (#50)

IFGE Board of Directors

Member: Tiffany, TransPitt, Paradise

Attractive TV, dedicated to this wonderful joy of dressing. "I work very hard so moments of relaxation and pleasure of this sort are precious to me. I love being a TV, and I'm anxious to meet many others who delight in the same feelings."

Sheila K. (PA-0336)

LAURA S. (W. PA) (#49)

Member: TransPitt

Married hetero TV, 39, 145, 5'8". Interests: Golf, racquetball, candlelight dinners, business. "I'm an entrepreneur with overwhelming time and business commitments. I'm fascinated with the female form and the excitement & refuge it provides. Would like to meet those with similar interests. Photo appreciated - will return same."

Laura S. (PA-1191)

ELANA L. (NJ) (#49)

Single TV, 33, 5'6", 135. Quiet, intelligent, and sincere. Interests: Bass and rhythm guitar, films, ethnic foods, hiking, sightseeing, and practicing the art of crossdressing. "I would enjoy making new friends and acquaintances, especially in the NYC metro area, to share mutual interests with."

Elena L., P.O. Box 05, Clifton, NJ 07015

JOANN ROBERTS (E. PA) (#49)

Member: Renaissance

Participant: Poconos Outings

Married hetero TV, 5'6", 38, with understanding wife and children. Lecturer and author on crossdressing. Passes easily and loves going out. Wants to form non-sexual social TV group in suburban Philadelphia area.

JoAnn Roberts, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406

SUZIE M. (NJ) (#49)

Member: NGA

MWM Bi-TV, 40's, 6'1", trim figure. Loves lingerie, nylons and high heels. "Have been dressing all my life. Would like to meet with other bi- or gay sisters to share fantasies. Will answer all who write."

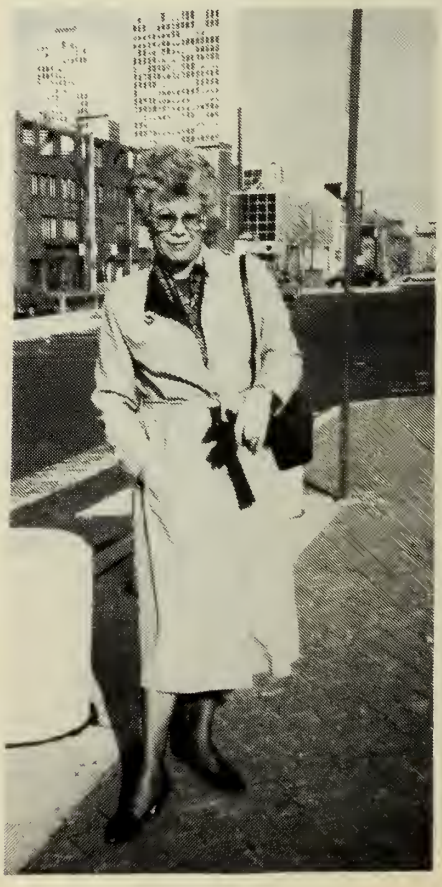
Suzie M. (NJ-0686)

ROBIN FREY (E. PA) (#49)

Member: Dignity

Pre-op TS, 38, enjoys boating, swimming, horse back riding. "Would love to find employment & live full time as female. Free to travel, & would love other TV-TSs to give me a call."

Robin Frey, P.O. Box 1341, West Chester, PA 019380
1-215-696-6468



(Joan Fashions NY-1220)

DOROTHY G. (NJ) (#49)
Member: Chi Delta Mu, Tiffany
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, P-town WSGMarried hetero crossdresser with a very supportive wife. He 44, she 39. Enjoys socializing, especially with other couples for friendship. Seeking couples in NJ. "My wife is handicapped (polio), but enjoys attending get-togethers. We're willing to help other couples having 'acceptance' problems."
Dorothy G., Box 467, Oakhurst, NJ 07755

(Joanna G. NJ-0520)

(Julie Cavanaugh NJ-1460)

ALISON LAING (E. PA) (#50)
Member: Renaissance
Awards: Miss Congeniality '87
Middle age, middle sized, life long CD. Married with wonderful supportive spouse.
Interests: Arts and crafts, jewelry and fabrics. Love to shop at fleamarkets and antique shops. Loves good food, wine, travel and dancing. "I take my gender shift very seriously and work hard to be at least unobtrusive if not passable. Most of all I try to have lots of fun and at the same time help make others in our Community happy.
Alison Laing, P.O. Box 635, Phoenixville, PA 19460

EMILY C. (W. PA) (#49)
"I'm an intensely private lady who has been looking out from behind my eyes. Wish to correspond with others on the same adventure."
Emily C. (PA-0865)

CAMMILLE S. (W. PA) (#50)
Member: TransPitt
Rather heavy set, heavily made up woman favoring conservative dress, including gloves, hankies & perfume & corsets. Interests include photography, writing, hot air ballooning, fashion ideas for large feminine women. "I like leather apparel, but strictly feminine."
Cammille S. (PA-1274)

DENISE MONRAD (E. PA) (#50)
Pre-op TS, 5'10", 135, 30, light brown hair, blue eyes. Interests: Sailing, archery, playing guitar and the outdoors in general. "Would like a friend or two to share some time and perhaps some insight and moral support."
Denise M. (PA-1302)

JANICE B. (PA) (#50)
37, MWM, hetero closet TV, now discovering TV paraculture. Enjoys restoring old houses, dressing up, shopping for Janice with supportive wife. Seeking to correspond with other TVs coping with marriage vs TV interest.
Janice B. (PA-1315)

DIEDRE LUCAS (N. NJ) (#50)
MBM, hetero, 37, 5'10". Interests: Participating in sports, computers, lingerie, and crossdressing. "I would like to correspond and meet with other hetero "sisters" to create friendly relationships. I enjoy wearing very feminine and feeling as much as a woman as I can feel. I have never experienced being dressed among other people."
D. Lucas, P.O. Box 1308, Maplewood, NJ 07040

JEAN G. (W. PA) (#50)
6'2", 170, , retired Navy. Single, no dependents. Easy going, honest, considerate, financially secure. Interests: Dining out, live entertainment, music from (#50)s, my '57 T-bird. Seeking slim TV/TS for friendship. Should have a driver's license. Will furnish wardrobe.
Gene, P.O. Box 37, Rector, PA 15677

(Angela G. PA-1075)

TRUDY HENRY (E. PA) (#50)
Member: Renaissance
5'10", 30ish, pass well visually, likes to dress appropriately for a situation. Interests: Computers, music (anything from Ted Nugent to Stravinsky), art, travel. "I enjoy hearing from others interested in the philosophical, as well as the social side of crossdressing. Don't get me wrong though, I also love to socialize."
Trudy Henry, P.O. Box 62, Penllyn, PA 19422

SUSAN S. (PA) (#50)
Hetero TV, 5'9", 1(#50), would like to get together with sisters in Mid-Atlantic states. Enjoys sports, music, (#50)'s rock, country, clothes, shopping, visiting, history, geography.
Susan S. (PA-1458)

PHYLLIS DANIELS (NJ) (#52)
43, 5'10", 165. "I love being a TV, and am anxious to meet with other TVs. Love being fem at all times, shoes, makeup, needlepoint, soft music, movies, and going out with that special person."
Phyllis Daniels, P.O. Box 1534, Brick, NJ 08723

JULIE C. (NJ) (#50)
MWM, 5'10", 1(#50), 30, brown hair, brown eyes, thin. Loves dressing pretty, especially in high heels. Enjoys music and meeting others like me. I also enjoy travel (especially P-town). I would love to go out more, all I need is a little encouragement. My wife helps as much as she can, but a friend would help a lot more.
Julie C. (NJ-1460)

(Trudi Henry PA-1391)

CHRIS R. (E. PA) (#50)
Member: Renaissance
Married, 38, rather quiet, would like to become more involved in CD activities. Interests: Photography, art/graphics, motorcycles, huskies (dogs). Would like to meet other CDs with varied interests. Wife also interested in meeting CD's wives.
Resident, P.O. Box 98, Folsom, PA 19033

KRISTIE (NJ)
(#52)
Tall (6' w/o heels), slender, (145 lbs) and voluptuous blonde with piercing blue eyes. Interested in forming a close relationship with an understanding friend who enjoys sailing, music, tennis, and bicycling. "As a highly educated professional business person, I am embarking on a TS conversion after 23 years of confused agony. Sharing this mission with sympathetic friends is essential."
Kristie (NJ-1642)

JAN (NJ)
(#52)
"Heterosexual male who feels half female seeks egalatarian woman/women. May be interested in being a woman's housewife, girl-friend & husband."
Jan (NJ-1602)

SALLY JO O. (E. PA)
(#51)
MWM, 63, 6'1", 180, hazel eyes, light brown hair, dressing since I was 10. Interests: Music, sports (golf), computers. "I love to dress in my own home. Only just beginning to come out. Have no pictures yet. Never told anyone till recently. Married, 7 children, no family member knows. Would like to talk & correspond with other girls."
Sally Jo O. (PA-1537)

CATHERINE ROSEMARY D. (E. PA)
(#52)
Member: Outreach
SWM hetero crossdresser, 60+, 5'9", 190
"It's unlikely that I would pass, but am interested in the world of the crossdresser, and would like to get acquainted."
Catherine D. (PA-0748)

(Sheila Kirk PA-0336)

RICKY HUNT (E. PA) (#52)
MWM, 260+, 6'2", enjoys reading sci-fi & mysteries. Also enjoys photography, old houses, electronics, cooking, computers, hiking.
"Can anyone else see the humorous side of crossdressing? I love corresponding and making new friends. Write and say hello."
Ricky Hunt, Box 263, Towanda, PA 18848

REBECCA SUE M. (E. PA) (#50)
Member: Phi Chapter
MWM, 5'9", 155, 60, retired professional, novice crossdresser. Enjoys sports, music, crossdressing, walking, travel. Needs and will appreciate all the help I can get. Would love to meet and correspond with sisters of same interests who can help me to come out of the closet and achieve my feminine crossdressing desires.
Rebecca M. (PA-1357)

HERMINE HALL (NJ) (#50)
30, 5'7", 140. Enjoys reading, listening to music, gardening. Shy and reticent, would like to correspond through letter writing.
Hermine H. (NJ-1356)

MARYANN KIRKLAND (NJ) (#51)
Member: Renaissance
MWM hetero TV, 5'11", 38, auburn hair, and expressive brown eyes. Interests: Classical ballet, opera, 19th century literature, fine wines, shopping & partying with other sisters. "I'm willing to work to create a positive educated public image of crossdressing. Fond of full skirts, petticoats, crinolines and hair ornaments. Those of like interest should write."
Maryann Kirkland, Suite 401, New Woman Marketplace, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

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210 Fifth Ave. (TAP) New York, N.Y. 10010

(Alison Laing PA-1242)

DAVIDA T. (E. PA) (#52)

SWM, 38, shy and discreet. Trying to come out.

Enjoy spending my free time being as feminine as possible. I'm seeking understanding friends who may lend me a little support. Looking forward to visiting a P-town outing. My goal is to play a round of golf in a sun dress."

Davida T. (PA-0944)

BARBARA WHITE (W. PA) (#52)

Member: TransPitt

5'10", 170, brown hair, green eyes, very passable, married.

"Would like to meet other TV/TS's, and have a male take me out dinner/dancing. Nothing bizarre, please."

(Phyllis Daniels NJ-1515)

JAYNE MARIE M. (WA-DC) (#49)

"I enjoy photography, writing, & learning about my other self. I'm a closet TV, looking for courage to come out after 25 years of secret dressing. So much to learn, so disheartening to have to do it alone."

Jayne Marie M. (DC-1206)

CINDY GREEN (VA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess

DWM TV, enjoys TV lifestyle, lives alone. Looking forward to meeting other CDs. Special interests include ball gowns, hand holding, shopping w/ other TVs, fine lingerie. Would like to hear from other TVs/TSs for exchange of pictures & interests. Cindy G. (VA-1278)

MICHELLE ST CLAIR (MD) (#50)

SW, 40, young looking, and interested in new ideas. Most interested in finding a genuine female in DC area for relationship.

Michelle StC (MD-1279)

YVONNE H. (VA) #50)

Member: Tri Ess Hetero TV, 36, 6'1", 200, non-smoker. I don't pass well but am trying to improve my femininity. Love lingerie and all feminine clothing, poetry, gourmet cooking. Would like to correspond and learn how to be as lady-like as possible.

Yvonne H. (VA-1280)

JULIE ALEXANDER (VA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess

5'6", 155, black hair, married with children. Loves to cook, enjoys photography, interior decorating, tennis, swimming and golf. Would like to correspond and contact other TVs for non-sexual relationships. Seeking female as 'sister', or very feminine TS. Send photo please. Will answer all.

Julie Alexander, P.O. Box 4426, Cary, NC 27(#51)9

DIANNE FERN (VA) (#50)

Member: Butterfly of NOVA

MWM, Bi-TV, (#50)'s, long time crossdresser, supportive wife. Enjoys gourmet cooking, sailing, music (jazz), intellectually stimulating conversation, small social get-togethers with TVs and those who enjoy the exploration of all aspects of the femme lifestyle. Would like to meet TVs from the MD, DC and VA area. Can entertain.

Dianne F. (VA-1439)

VERONICA STYLES (NC) (#50)

Member: Cross-Port

Hetero TV, just coming out of closet. Classy, sensual, fun loving. seeing to share public & private sides of femme life with TVs & GGs. Can travel. Letter & photo reciprocated.

Veronica S. (NC-1364)

NANCY R. (MD) (#50)

Finally realizing who I am. Just started going out dressed in the early a m. hours by myself. Looking for someone (male or female) locally to encourage me. I'm 61 but look 40. I'm 5'8", mild mannered, and like most people. Please write.

Leonard J. Rudell, 9C Richmar Rd, Owings Mills, MD 21117

(Linda C. VA-0703)

SANDY JOHNSON (NC) (#52)

5'7", 145 lbs., brown eyes and hair. "I am very interested in meeting and corresponding with other TVs and TSs. I enjoy dressing and learning more about the art of feminization. I travel and go out to dress frequently."

Sandy Johnson, 4832 Park Rd., Box 293, Charlotte, NC 28209

(Julie Alexander NC-1485)

ROBERTA LEWIS (WA DC) (#52)

6'2", 36, chairperson Washington-Baltimore Alliance

Interests: Bicycling, top 40, dancing.

"If you're coming to DC, write me. If not, write me anyway. Also would like to hear from other black crossdressers."

R. Lewis, P.O. Box 50724, Washington, DC 20004-0724

Roberta Lewis (DC-0972)

ADRIENNE R. (MD)
(#52)

SWM, 36, 5'11", 150.

"My idea of fun is a quiet evening drink with a friend -- both of us in skirts, heels, and hose. We're perfectly made up and chatting about chiffon dresses with nipped waists and wide rustling skirts. We may go shopping together tomorrow, or at least dream about the possibility. If this sort of scene sounds appealing, let's try it by mail first, then talk about meeting. Love letter and photo exchange with all."

Boxholder, P.O. Box 92, Laurel, MD 20707

PETRA D. (NC)
(#52)

"I am a 32 yr old married TV with supportive wife and young child. Am eager to communicate with others in the TV Community who have managed to balance professional, family, and TV interests. Am particularly interested in how others have coped with raising children. I enjoy reading, writing, photography, and a variety of outdoor activities. My masculine side plays soccer and likes to go camping. My feminine side enjoys gardening, watching wild flowers grow, and most of all wearing pretty clothes and makeup."

Petra D. (NC-1314)

SOUTHEAST

VANESSA S. (FL)
(#49)

Member: TMWM, 46, 5'7". Lifelong crossdresser, but unable to dress frequently. Interests: Reading, history, stamp collecting, lovely femme fashions, high heels, wigs, makeup. "I love to dress up and feel feminine. I especially enjoy very femme high fashion clothes and footwear.
Correspondence helps me get through those times when I can't dress."

Vanessa S. (FL-1178)

SARAH ANNE D. (FL)
(#49)

Long time TV, 5'6", light complexion. Enjoys flea markets, traveling, & boating. Loves all things feminine.

Sarah Anne D. (FL-0558)

(Phyllis Larson DE-)

KIM BLAIR (FL) (#52)

Male, married TV in mid-40s. Interests: Cross dressing with special interest in full skirts and full petticoats. "I would like to correspond with, or meet other TVs and TV couples. I like the mid-Florida area's east coast.

Kim B. (FL-1606)

THEODORA R. (FL) (#50)

5'8", 160, size 18. Single TV. Crossdress at home, wear blouse & slacks all the time, and like all female things. Will answer all.

Theodora R (FL-1117)

DELINDA LESLIE N. (MS) (#50)

42, 5'4", 195, brown hair, brown eyes. Interests: Writing, the arts, wicca, psychology, theatre, movies. "I would like to correspond with all who are interested in TVism, TSism, & TGism."

Delinda N. (MS-1275)

LEE (LA) (#52)

White male, 47, 5'10", 170#, married to understanding wife. Interests: Boating, fishing, pool shooting, playing cards, and cross dressing. "I love high heels and stockings, and meeting with other cross-dressers for evenings out or correspondence and swapping photos."

Lee (LA-1618)

DIANNE KENDALL (GA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess Life long TV, willowy, sensuous, very feminine with extensive, fashionable wardrobe including much precious lingerie - mostly pink - and heels for every outfit and occasion. wants to meet, correspond with and talk to cute TVs, TSs, and GGs who love and appreciate the feminine as much as I do. Also write stories about boys being sweetly dressed as girls by girls. Let's be girls together in Atlanta or elsewhere.

Diane Kendall, 3220-A Post Woods Dr, Atlanta, GA 30339 (404) 988-0667

LINDA W. (GA) (#51)

Member: Tri Ess

SWM TV, 5'10", 180, size 18, 29. Computer systems analyst, loves all music (especially jazz), voracious reader, runner, hiker. "After almost 30 years in the closet, I'm trying to emerge and make some TV/TG/TS friends. I'm getting involved in an emerging Tri-Ess Chapter in the Southeast. Will answer all." Linda W. (GA-16)

CAROLYN COOPER (GA) (#50)

Enjoys feminine dress & fashions, photography, travel (GA, NC, & SC). I would like to correspond with other TVs concerning our mutual interests and concerns.

Carolyn Cooper, P.O. Box 591, Lilburn, GA 30247

(Joan Jessip FL-1703)

ERLENE THOMAS (FL) (#50)

Early 40's, just started openly cross-dressing with wife's understanding. Would like to meet others for discussion of same.

Erlene T. (FL-1396)

BOBBIE KAYE (FL) (#51)

MWM, bi, 53, 5'11", 175, fair, trim, college BA, professional, friendly. Enjoys tennis & golf. "Closet crossdresser for 25 years, but really feel relaxed and smile when I'm dressed. Would like to hear from others and meet in Florida."

B.K., P.O. Box (#50)21, Sarasota, FL 34277

LINDA S. (SE FL) (#52)

6', 180, 60+. Interested in feminizing personality and psychological thinking. Looking for help in resocialization as a woman.

Linda S. (FL-0938)

JENNIFER REECE (FL) (#52)

SWM, tall but good looking as either sex.

Interests: Motor boating, diving, tennis and being all fem or all male. Would like to meet an understanding woman or TS and have a good time.

Jennifer Reece, P.O. Box 10296, 57th Ave, Bradenton, FL 34282

SAMANTHA T. (TN) (#52)

Member: SLGF, Dixie Belles

39+ years young, 5'8", use own long hair, very active in womanly role, deaf, taught how to speak & lip read.

Interests: Fashions, arts, collecting anything which attracts my attention, my lovely house. I am hoping to make some friends in Western/Middle Tennessee, Western Kentucky, and neighboring states. I am living close to "land between the lakes" national recreational park. Will answer all letters.

Samantha T., RT 2 Box 103B, Buchanan, TN 38222

JOAN ANN OTTLAND (NW FL) (#52)

Member: Tri Ess

SWM, 5'10", 50's. Enjoys swimming, cycling, history, music, bridge, calligraphy. Recently widowed and TV active. Interested in

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(Jennifer Reece FL-0739)

corresponding with other middle Gulf Coast heterosexual TVs, or empathizing age group GGs.

Joan Ottland, Suite 129, 8084 N. Davis Hwy E3, Pensacola, FL 32514

JOAN J. (SW FL) (#51)

SWM hetero TV, 5'11", 150, 37. Enjoys ballroom dancing, exercising, golf, yoga. Sincere and considerate. Wishes to socialize with TV's, TS's and women in the Central Florida area.

J. Jessip, P.O. Box 22412, St Petersburg, FL 33742-2412

EVE HYDE (TN) (#52)

Mature professional male, 5'10", 160, very discrete. Has a variety of interests.

Eve H. (TN-1733)

RANDI S. (AR) (#51)

Member: Club Gemini

SWM, Bi-, 5'11", 150. Enjoys everything feminine, dressing, cooking, and photography. Would love to correspond & meet with "boys who would rather be girls", TV's & TS's.

Randi S. (AR-1708)

LISA HART (LA) (#52)

SWM hetero TV, 35, slim athletic build. Successful, attractive male professional.

"Would like to meet attractive females who like men who enjoy crossdressing. I've never been out and about as a female, but the idea is appealing. Will respond promptly to potential femme friends, especially in the New Orleans area.

Lisa H. (LA-1717)

MID-WEST

ROBERTA LEE (ND) (#49)

Member: Tri Ess

Happily married TV, 5'8", 145, 43, has good sense of humor. Interests: Electronics, books, creative writing, camping, fishing, shopping. "I like to write and correspond with upbeat fun loving TVs."

Roberta L.(ND-1071)

RANDI (MI) (#49)

Member: Crossroads

M/m, 5'11", 1(#50), late 30's, dark hair & brown eyes, educated professional. Interests: Travel, outdoors activities, music & golf. "I like to talk and meet with others, attractive and experienced in the feminine persuasions, TV and TS."

Randi (MI-1074)

MAUREEN NICOLE ARNETTE (MI) (#51)

Member: Tri Ess, Chi Chapter, Crossroads, NGA

Participant: Holiday En Femme '85 '86, 'Be All' '86

SWM, (#49), professional. "I have attained my feminine self to surface over the past two years. This has been a positive and rewarding experience for me and I have made wonderful friends through it. I am exploring the transgender process, am involved in a clinic program, started electrolysis and hormones. Happy to communicate with anyone."

Maureen Nicole Arnette, 4275 Dobie Rd, Okemos, MI 864

(Dianne Kendall GA-1248)

(Lynn Sherman OH-1244)

(Lee McNutt LA-1618)

(Lisa Hart LA-1717)

CHARLINE D. RIMES (MI) (#52)

SWM, 5'5" tall, Hazel eyes, 35 years old. Participated in the CGA Spring Fling. Interests include spray painting, carpentry, work, bowling, and shopping for clothes.

Charline D. Rimes (MI-1605)

RITA O. (IN) (#49)

Member: CHIC, NGA

DWM, 47, TS. Interests: Loves tent camping, travel, country music and military history. "I'm a 4-year recovering alcoholic willing to 'care & share'. Looking for pen pals nationwide. Will answer all, prompt. limited travel possible." Rita O. (IN-1183)

YVONNE COOK (IN) (#52)

IFGE Director of Operations, IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Finance Committee

Member: Chi Chapter, CrossPort, IXE, TGIC, EVTC.

Participant: Chicago Spring Fling, "Be All", "Coming Together".

Friendly and sincere individual who enjoys all people who are involved in gender issues. Would like to hear from female-to-male crossdressers.

Yvonne C. (IN-1009)

DAN RILEY (IN) (#52)

Member: IXE

SWF, 37, TV, interested in hearing from other female-to-male crossdressers. Hobbies include dancing, eating out, and enjoying the company of others.

Dan Riley, (IN-

(Vanessa W. IN-1166)

GLORIA W. (IL) (#49)

Member: Tri Ess

Participant: 'Be All', NGA 'Spring Fling'

Hetero, 34, 5'3", passable, fun-loving. Interests: Singing, dancing, jogging, photography, karate, science, writing. "I publish 'The Crossdresser's Bureau', and edit the NGA newsletter. I love correspondence, and travel periodically as part of my employment."

G. Wright, P.O. Box 172, Gurnee, IL 60031

(Karen B. IL-1398)

HALEY (NE) (#49)
Member: ETVC
TV, (#49)ish, 5'8", 175, blonde, size 18-20. Interests: Shopping, cooking, fashion magazines, getting my hair & nails done, being Haley, and most of all spending time with my wife. "I'd like to meet other TVs in the central USA and help make TVism easier for others than it has been for me. Will answer all."
Haley (NE-1079)

MARGRET (NE) (#52)
5'7", 210#, just coming out other than home. Married, 4 children, ages 24 to 9. Interests: Golf, swimming, meeting often with our Group. "I hope to attend a meeting in Chicago in Fall if things work out. I work for the Railroad as a brakeman."
Margaret (NE-1589)

(Michelle M. OH-0854)

DEE KAY (NE) (#52)
5'9", 150, 39, married, hetero, monogamous. Interests: Politics, world affairs, Sci Fi, clothes. "I'm fun loving and a good listener. I would like to correspond with and meet others in the eastern Ne, W. IA, and KC area. Totally discreet and others must be also.
Dee Kay (NE-1583)

(Terri Scott MI-0476)

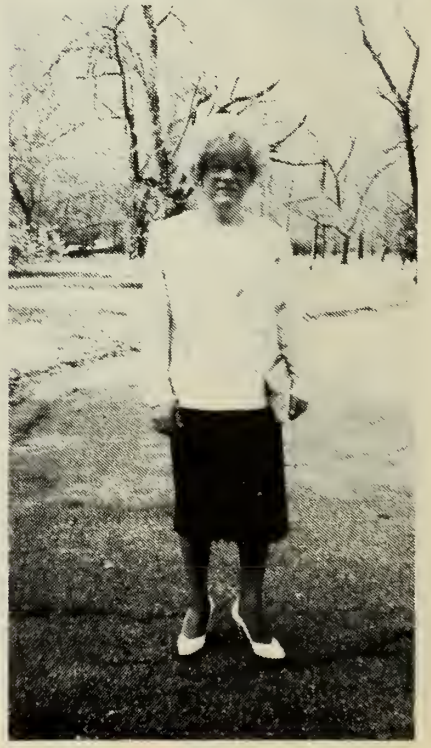
TERRI SUZANNE SCOTT (MI) (#49)
Member: Crossroads
Participant: 'Be All'
Personable feminine active crossdresser with a good sense of humor. Interests: Fashion, communicating with other crossdressers, sharing thoughts & experiences, writing articles about TV/TS lifestyle, joys, frustrations & problems. "I'm interested in helping other gals find & accept themselves. Enjoy going places - shopping, restaurants, movies, shows, etc. as me."
Terri Scott, P.O. Box 728, Birmingham, MI 012

BOBBI J. (MI) (#52)
6'4", 225 lbs. "I'm making the transformation to allow my femme self to surface. I enjoy shopping, girl talk, and travel."
Bobbi J., P.O. Box 2594, Livonia, MI 48150

TONI H. (OH) (#50)
Single, 6'1", 195, 58. Closet executive TV wants to meet same with understanding wife for dressing, dinner and conversation. If you have a private place within (#50) miles of Columbus, you have a new friend.
Toni H. (OH-1066)

VANESSA W. (IN) (#50)
Member: St Louis Gateway Femmes 5'9", slender, blue eyes, blond, white CD, passable in public, very discreet & expect same. Interests: Lingerie, corsetry, high heels, enjoy role playing & shopping with girlfriend. S. IN, S. IL, & W. KY, can travel, looking for someone to share experiences with. Also interested in meeting real women interested in CDs.
Vanessa W. (IN-1166)

(Cynthia J. AR-1063)



(Randi D. MO-1013)

KATHERYN ANN B. (MI) (#50)
Member: Tri Ess, Crossroads
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Coming Together
29, married to a wonderful spouse, interested in
correspondence & meeting those in W. MI. Also, sewing, baking, reading, writing. "I'm a giver, who has been given much. Believe once sincere deed is worth many good thoughts."
Katheryn B. (MI-1277)

MARCY S. (MN) (#50)
35, 6', trim, blue eyes, brown hair, business professional. Enjoys needlework, cooking, music and sports. "I'm very actively involved in my business community so value discretion highly. Have a wonderful wife who is very supportive and understanding. Will correspond with anyone."
Marcy, PO Box 2814, Minneapolis, MN 55402

(Francine A. MI-1545)

ANGELA JOHNSON (MO) (#50)
Member: St Louis Gateway Femmes"My interests are Photography, softball, bowling, weight training. I would like to hear from all TVs, TSs, crossdressers & sympathetic women to write and share experiences and problems."
Angela Johnson (MO-1162)

KAREN MICHELLE R. (IL) (#50)
Member: Chi Chapter Tri-Ess
5'9", 1(#50), 29 crossdresser. Interests: Science fiction books and movies, skiing,

(Jackie S. IN-1065)

hockey, soccer, and being complete. "Being Karen is what it's all about. If I can help, please allow me to try. Will write to all."
Karen R. (IL-1514)

RONI C. (MO) (#50)
Member: SLGF
Married TV, hetero, 44, 5'11", 160. Enjoys music, photography, going out with friends, sewing, writing, sailing, entertaining at home, and cars. "I am very fortunate to have an understanding and supportive spouse. Would like to build the St. Louis Gateway Femmes into a strong support group. I will try to answer anyone that writes."
Roni, P.O. Box 1262

GLORIA LYNN GIBSON (IN) (#50)
Member: Tri-Ess
SWM, tall, auburn hair, hazel eyes. Enjoys camping, hiking, reading, golfing, movies. "I'm hoping to meet an understanding and sympathetic woman. Also look forward to meeting and sharing girl talk with 'sisters'. Wish to explore my femininity more deeply. Just coming out and looking for mutual support."
Gloria G. (IN-10)

CHRISTINE JOHNSON (MI) (#50)
Member: Crossroads
Participant: Fantasia Fair
SWM, 5'10", 25. Enjoys travel, bicycling, skiing, camping, history, quiet walks in the woods. "I am an open and friendly person. I have learned to enjoy the feminine part of me and wish to develop it as much as possible. I will be moving to

(Denise P. MN-1444)

Seattle, and would like to have friends when I get there."
Christine Johnson, Box 8715, Royal Oak, MI 068

MARTHA M. (WI) (#51)
TV, 5'6", 36, 1(#50). Enjoys crossdressing, camping, gardening, classical music, woodworking. "I have only recently come to accept that I am a TV. Still pretty much in the closet. Have a lot to learn. If you can help, drop me a note."
Martha M. (WI-1459)

(Elaine E. IN-1462)

(Justina Williams MI-1482)

(Roni Crawford MO-1479)

LINDA LEE ATHIE (WI) (#52)

5'7", blue eyes, brown hair or whatever color wig I decide to ware, weight 165 to 175 lbs., born August 1949. Interests: All things feminine (history of WW2) (war gaming) and becoming a woman, I am a TS and photography. "I wish to correspond with any one who wish to write to me, and to contact those to whom I have written to in the past. I wish correspondence no personal meetings. I do answer all."

Linda Lee Athie, Box 15784, Milwaukee, WI 53215

(Sandra Baker TN-1640)

DENISE P. (MN) (#50)

MWM TS, 5'11", 200, 37, college degree, business professional. "Have made the decision for surgery, and have been accepted into the Pre-Surgery Group at the University of Minnesota. My wife is trying to understand, and I have advised my employer who is willing to let me keep my job. I am looking for help from sisters in support before and after the surgery. I'm just coming out of the closet and think it feels great! Will answer all."

Denise P., c/o DVP, P.O. Box 2667, Minneapolis, MN 55402

GERI WATERS (IL) (#50)

Member: SLGF

6', 190 (and losing), brown hair, hazel eyes, Leo, good natured. enjoys art, writing, cars, good friends. Looking for sisters & friends in the St. Louis area to share ideas and get-togethers. Pass well in public and enjoy going out. I'm also a columnist for a national publication.

Geri Waters, 5 Chambers Blvd, Belleville, IL 62221

KAREN ANNE BAUMGARDNER (IL) (#50)

Member: CGS

SWM, 5'7", 135, 35. enjoys second-hand shopping, baseball, travel, reading, writing, Chicago history.

Karen B. (IL-1398)

LORI K. (OH) (#50)

Member: Tri-Ess

MWM, 34, wife somewhat supportive. Enjoys reading, cooking, vegetable gardening. "I have been on hormones, and I'm passable on occasion. My weak points are makeup & hair styling. Need help in these areas. Seeking more opportunities to go out in public en femme. Will correspond with others."

Lori K. (OH-0712)

DIANE FERGUSON (OH) (#50)

Member: Cross-Port

5'7", 140, blond hair, blue eyes, single. enjoys all types of sports, especially snow skiing. would like to find a pen pal, someone who is TV & considering TS.

Diane Ferguson, P.O. Box 4617, Maineville, OH 45039

LYNN SHERMAN (OH) (#52)

Single TV, 31 yrs. old, 145 lbs., dark hair, green eyes. "Quiet and educated but a good conversationalist with compatible people. Looking for TVs and women interested in all things feminine. Also enjoy reading and sports."

Lynn Sherman (OH-

DIANA COOPER (OH) (#52)

MWM with TS desires. Work in data processing. Interests: fishing, camping, boating, football, baseball, softball, racquetball, and cooking. "I would like to meet other TVs and especially TSs to help me to determine my own

gender. Also need help coming "out" and obtaining hormones (or finding a doctor that'll help).

Diana Cooper, Box 483, West Chester, OH 45069

JUDY KAYE (MN)
(#50)

Married closet TV, 5'11", 240, (#49), enjoys travel & photography. Has never dressed but have thought about it for 35 years.

Judy K. (MN-1367)

VANESSA S. (MN)
(#49)

Member: Tri-Ess

Married, 37, 5'11", 160, hetero crossdresser who is happily married to a lovely, supportive wife. "I'm embracing my femininity and enjoying the full expression of my personality. I love shopping, fashion, heels, etc. and enjoy being alive and being Vanessa. My wife and I are devout Christians and are interested in helping couples if we can.

Vanessa S., P.O. Box 11771, St. Paul, MN 55111

RANDI D. (MO)
(#51)

Member: SLGF, Chi Chapter

MWM hetero TV, 6'6", 180, supportive wife. "I enjoy pictures, and am trying to use a computer. I like to go out dressed. Constantly trying to pass better."

Randi D. (MO-1013)

(Sammy Tayloe TN-0934)

FRANCINE A. (MI)
(#51)

Married hetero TV, 40, 5'11", 200 with partially understanding wonderful wife. Interests: Fishing, hunting, shooting, VH-1, spending time with my family and of course dressing up. "I'm not passable which is alright by me. I just love the way I feel when I'm dressed. I sure would like to know how to cover my 'shadow' after shaving so it won't show in photographs. Please write."

Francine A. (MI-1545)

MARIE (KS)
(#51)

Member: Tri Ess

MWM hetero TV, masters degree, 37, 6'1", 165, blue eyes, brown hair. Interests: Guitar, photography, computers, collecting clothes. Would like to correspond with other TVs. Have a loving & supportive wife who would like to correspond with other wives. Enjoy getting out as girlfriends."

Marie (KS-1549)

DEBRA ANN (NE)
(#52)

MWM 44, 6'2", 205 lbs., blonde hair, blue eyes. Interests include bicycle riding, jazz and classical music, railroads, and the outdoors. "I have a fairly understanding wife. I would like to get more involved in CD; just do it occasionally and don't have any clothes that fit yet."

Debra Ann (NE-1655)

(Jane Nance KS-0694)

(Karen R. IL-1514)

JOANNE (OK) (#52)

TS, 35, 145, 5'7", black hair, hazel eyes, shy. Interested in computers, woodworking, and games. Could pass with a little help. Would love to be able to go shopping, dine out, and any feminine activity. Have never met or talked to a TS or TV. Will answer any letters.

JoAnne (OK-1550)

(Jennifer N. MI-1165)

(Naomi O. IL-0257)

(Angela J. MO-1162)

(Gloria Wright IL-0613)

(Geri W. IL-1400)

ARLENA M. PARRISH (IN) (#51)

Member: IXS, Cross-Port

"I enjoy crossdressing and being my feminine personality. Since I have just recently come out of the closet, I would love to correspond with and meet other sisters. I would appreciate any help in bettering my appearance. I will answer all letters very promptly and in a positive manner."

Ms Arlena M. Parrish, P.O. Box 27103, Indianapolis, IN 46227

ELAINE EDWARDS (IN) (#51)

Single, 5'6", 132, 34, non-smoker, professional horologist. Interests: Many and varied, sailing, soaring, camping, canoeing, antique clocks and watches. "My philosophy is aptly described by this quote by Thornton Wilder, 'My advice to you is not to inquire why or whither, but just to enjoy your ice cream while it is on your plate.'"

Elaine Edwards (IN-1462)

SANDRA BAKER (TN) (#52)

Member: I.F.G.E.

SWM, divorced, 50s, 6', 170, blue eyes, considered very attractive, professional pilot. Interest are classical music, opera, art, travel, tennis, collecting antiques. Avid audiophile. "I wish to meet/correspond with all who are sensitive, understanding, and who love to dress. I travel New England often."

Sandra Baker, Box 210362, Nashville, TN 37221-0362

(Karen C. IA-1170)

(Beverly W. IA-1230)

(J. Jaley NB-1079)

JUDY ADAMS (MN) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess

Participant: 'Be All -86', 'P-town Outing -86'Interests: Music, femininity, computers, woodworking, electronics, helping new sisters. "I've been out of the closet for two years and think I know what makes us tick. Am interested in TV theory and corresponding with others who believe they have insights into the subject."

Judy A. (MN-1179)

(Linda Lee Athie WI-0529)

DEBRA S. (MN) (#50)

Married hetero TV, 32, 240, 6'2".

Interests: Stuffed animal collector, history, science fiction, and being comfortable and natural as a woman.

"I would like to meet other TVs in the Twin City area with a though toward forming a social club. I personally believe in accepting people as they are as long as they protect other people's security. I look forward to corresponding and eventually meeting."

Occupant, P.O. Box 6726, St. Paul, MN 5(#51)06

MARCIA RAYE (MI) (#52)

SW TV, 31. Interests include hiking, tennis, music, and cooking. Enjoy femininity and feminine attire. Also enjoy little girls' and baby clothes. "Have attended regional weekends and would enjoy sharing my experiences with others. I am especially interested in corresponding with other crossdressers who are sealing with telling significant others and being content with their crossdressing."

Marcia Raye(MI-1654)

MILESA PHAR (MI) (#52)

Member: Crossroads

Married TV. Enjoys photography, good conversations and correspondence.

"I am now outreaching as a guest lecturer at universities in Michigan. Also developing network and referrals with counselors."

Milesa Phar, P.O. Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135

EVE B. (IL) (#52)

IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Educational Resources Committee

Member: Chi Chapter, Outreach, CGS

Awards: Miss DREAM '77 & '80, FF Miss Congeniality, FF Miss Best Dressed, Miss Fantasia Fair

Eve is an elegant fun-loving girl who 'exists' 2-3 days a week. Enjoys shopping, dining out, and traveling the Mid-West and West. Does many presentations with Naomi O. (IL) before professional and college audiences to help 'educate' on our lifestyle. Has appeared on television in Cleveland, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis. Eve plays golf and tennis.

Eve B. (IL-0523)

NAOMI O. (IL) (#49)

IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Legal/By-Laws Committee

Member: Chi Chapter (President), Crossroads, Paradise, Outreach

Awards: Miss Fantasia Fair, FF Miss Congeniality

A Chicago area attorney who loves the better things in life. Is personable and understanding. Enjoys travel, photography, food (still can't stand beets or brussels sprouts), and fashion & jewelry (it's the gypsy in my soul). Active in Mid-West crossdressing activities, and has appeared on radio and television in Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Boston, Philadelphia, and Minneapolis.

Naomi O., P.O. Box 342, Chicago, IL 60690

(Eve B. IL-0523)
(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

(Milesa Phar MI-0976)

JANE NANCE (KS) (#52)

M-F TS, late 50's, 5'7", 140, masters degree, living as a woman 60% of time. Very supportive wife.

Interests: Spending time in public as a female, especially with spouse. Also, symphonic music, theatre, movies, & dinners. I'm TS, but committed to my heterosexual marital relationship. Tend to be a fairly private person, with minimal personal meetings with others. As time permits, willing to share my experiences with others. Dedicated to educating others about crossdressing.

Ms Jane Nance, P.O. Box 67088, Topeka, KS 66667-9988

KIMBERLY ANDERSON (IL) (#52)

5'7", 115, lt brown hair, blue eyes.

Interests: Baseball, football, dining out (although I love to cook), shopping, visiting historical places, sunbathing.

"Am very tired of being in this closet. Need help with everything! Would like to meet TV-TS's in Chicago area who are active in the Community."

Kimberly A., c/o Keith J. Anderson, 1620 S. Oak Park Ave, Berwyn, IL 60402

CAMILE M. (OH) (#51)

Very attractive TV, blue eyes, brown hair, 5'10", 159, size 12-14, still in the closet.

"Would like to meet and correspond with like-minded sisters. Am open to all. Would welcome any sisters that travel to my area and could travel myself."

Camile M. (OH-1721)

(Maureen Nicole arnette MI-)

(Patti F. MN-0739)

(Yvonne Cook IN-1009)

MARY A. (ND) (#52)

HeteroTV, 54, 5'8", 145, happily married.

Interests: Woodwork, camping, fishing, travel. "Would like very much to meet other TV's with understanding wives, who could help my wife to understand."

Mary A. (ND-1731)

TAMARA JEAN MCINTYRE (MI) (#52)

"I am a fun loving, earth redhead who loves to travel. I enjoy fast cars and auto racing, meeting and talking with other sisters. I would enjoy hearing from my sisters around the country. My work allows me to travel and I would enjoy meeting many of my sisters."

Tammi McIntyre, P.O. Box 2261, Monroe, MI 48161

RHONDA LYNN (IN) (#51)

SWM TV, 39, brown hair and eyes, size 14. Lives alone.

"I love shopping, gardening, swimming, exercise, wildlife, cooking cleaning, and sewing. Have nice home and clothes. Am looking for a life-long companion to have a happy life with, living as a woman as much as possible. I am not afraid of hard work. Can and will relocate for the right person. I am very sincere in every way. Please write!"

Rhonda L. (IN-1712)

(Arlena M. Parrish IN-1466)

(Margaret NB-1589)

INTER-MOUNTAIN, SOUTHWEST

FRANK HAND (TX) (#52)

SWM, 27, 5'8", 175 lbs., brown hair, brown eyes. Interests include sports, travelling, listening to music, reading, and quiet evenings at home. "I am interested in corresponding and possibly meeting an attractive TV or TS. No age or race preference. All replies answered."

Frank Hand, 534 Hunt Lane, Apt. 1010, San Antonio, TX 78245-2314

ROSALIND HART (NM) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess

Participant: 'Be All', WSG P-town Outing

Married TV, 59, but appear younger. 5'6", 155, slightly graying brown hair. Relatively uninhibited under proper circumstances. Wife's acceptance ambivalent. Non-smoker. Interests: Skills required to pass well. Endocrine, psychological, & genetic basis of transvestite behavior. Enjoys computers, science fiction, shopping, dining out, music and good conversation with like-minded persons.

Rosalind H. (NM-0768)

DIANE I. (AZ) (49)

Member: Alpha Zeta (President)Interested in women's fashions, music, cooking, writing, classic movies, travel. Enjoys shopping, going to plays and musicals, and out to dinner as a girl. Has spoken to college classes on cross-dressing.

Diane I. (AZ-1070)

JACQUELINE ANNE ALLEN (TX)(#49)

Member: Boulton-Park

Strawberry blonde, 5'9", 77 Kg (I think, anything to avoid the fact), brown eyes. Interests: Cars, jazz & classical music, politics, westerns, kids. "When I first started dealing with national organizations I intended to become a good correspondent - failure! I would like to hear from you though."

Jacqueline Anne Allen, P.O. Box 69, San Antonio, TX 78209

(Harriett Gale TX-)

(Diane Ingram AZ-1070)

SAMANTHA WALLS (N. TX) (#49)

IFGE Board of Directors

Member: Dallas-Ft Worth Chapter

Participant: Fantasia Fair, DREAM, 'Be All', Shangri La, 'Coming Together'

Married TV, 5'11", size 18. Interests: My children and my crossdressing. I enjoy traveling in my RV. Member of a renewed effort to establish a crossdressing group in the Dallas/Ft Worth area. A sporadic corresponder.

Ms S. Walls, 821 St Moritz, #122, Crowley, TX 76036

TOMMIE F. (WY) (#49)

Member: Tri Ess

Interests: High heels, hose & pretty lingerie. Also, photography, historical & model railroading, military history. "I love to look & feel feminine, to see myself & others in feminine finery. I would like to meet, correspond & exchange photos with sisters world-wide. I will answer all letters." Tommie F., P.O. Box 1503, Riverton, WY 82(#50)1

CHARLES WORKMAN (CO) (#49)

Attractive Indian, 5'9", 1(#50), brown eyes, good complexion, black hair. "I'm interested in anything and everything but religion. I would like to correspond and make lasting friendships with TVs & TSs around the world."

Charles R. Workman, Box 600-42066-F-2, Canon City, CO 81212

KAY METSKER (TX) (#49)

Member: Outreach, NGA, Tri Ess

Participant: Fantasia Fair

(Michelle Meller TX-1305)

Awards: 'Miss Cinderella' FF '86

SWM, 35, 5'10", 145, quiet, sensitive, caring. Enjoys skiing, computers, reading, dancing, traveling, games. "I would love to meet others in the Dallas area for support and social contacts."

Kay Metsker (TX-1208)

(Nancy Hart TX-1287)

(Shirley K. Knight CO-0494)

PATTY MARLANE (OK) (#51)

MWM hetero TV, (#51), 5'7", with desire to pass but needs encouragement & help. Enjoys music, drama, sports & fashions, enforced crossdressing. "Would like to correspond with someone with like interest & would appreciate source for material fact or fiction on enforced crossdressing."

Patty M. (OK-1402)

PAULA J. JOHNSON (OK) (#52)

SWM TV, 5'8", 30s, brown hair, blue eyes. Interests: Music, computers, photography, dancing, all things to do with crossdressing. "Will correspond and exchange photos with everyone. Am currently trying to establish a TV/TS support group or social group. Seeking help and contact with people in the OK area.

P. Johnson, 126 N. Fulton, Tulsa, OK 74115

HARRIETT GALE (TX) (#50)

Member: Boulton & Park

Participant: 'Coming Together 87'

MWM lifelong CD with Transsexual tendencies, 5'11", 66, size 22, wife is not accepting. Friendly and understanding of others. Enjoys dressing, shopping, travel and dancing. Due to circumstances I have not been able to dress as often as I would like; only when out of town and in groups of my sisters. Would love to correspond and meet with other sisters.

Harriett Gale, P.O. Box 292, San Antonio, TX 78291

MARY FRANCES WILLIAMS (TX)(#51)

Member: Boulton & Park

MWM TV, 5'10", eyes of blue, all other figures begin with 4. Married, wife shares interest and clothes. Enjoys attending meetings, writing editorials and stories, avoiding writing letters, food and clothing. Nominee for worst correspondent of the year for the last four years. Jacqueline Allen won!

Mary Frances Williams, P.O. Box 169672, San Antonio, TX 78280-3272

(Wendi Danielle Pierce AZ-1072)
Chairman, IFGE Board of Directors)

MICHELLE H. (TX) (#51)

Member: Boulton & Park

6'2", 185, brown eyes and hair. Enjoys golf, swimming & beaching, travel, shopping, correspondence. Lives in the Houston TX area & travels the state of Texas regularly.

Michelle H. (TX-1446)

(Kay M. TX-1208)
(Photo: Mariette Pathy Allen)

JO-ANN Z. (TX) (#50)

6'4", 34, single, started crossdressing at about 12 years old. Enjoys old movies on TV, antiques, old houses, and shooting in matches. Needs help incoming out of closet.

JoAnn Z. (TX-1369)

MARY LEE (TX) (#52)

5'9", 160, grey eyes, grey/blonde hair, slim legs, married; wife accepts me as I am. Interests: Crossdressing, reading, history, hiking. "I first cross dressed as age 4. Intermittent episodes throughout 20 yr. military career. I was a closet dresser until 7 months ago. I'm anxious to help educate the public.)

Mary Lee, Box 532535, Grand Prairie, TX, 75053-2535

JO ANNE RUSSELL (OK) (#51)

"Hi, I am 35 going on 25, 145, 5'7", dark hair, blue eyes. I am looking for a friend who can share my secrets and have fun. I am not looking for sex, drugs, or drunks. If you need a friend, write me. I live in NW OK."

Jo Anne R. (OK-1550)

VICKY TREBOR (CO) (#52)

MWM Hetero, 54, lifelong TV. "I enjoy fashion, make-up, shopping, all things feminine. I wish to meet and/or correspond with other TVs for support and development."

Vicky Trebor (CO-1401)

JEAN C. (WY) (#51)

S GG (single female), 29. Enjoys gardening, writing, reading, cats. "Would be willing to help crossdressers in whatever way I can. Strongly feel that people should have a right to dress and look the way they want. I am not a CD myself, but maybe I can offer some kind of support for all you wonderful people out there, even if it's just through a letter."

Jean C. (WY-1551)

(Janice Rupard TX-0567)

TERRI DOWNS (NV) (#49)

Member: Tri Ess, NGA

Participant: Pajaro Dunes, DREAM, Stallion Springs

Auburn hair, grey eyes, 5'11", 175, 40+, a nice person who loves dressing. Interests: Flying, ham radio, books, country & string music, travel, and attending TV meetings. "I love meeting other 'girls', & show them the Vegas area. Am very careful when showing them around."

T. Downs, P.O. Box 4116, N. Las Vegas, NV 89030-0116

ROBIN EMMONS (TX) (#49)

"I enjoy flowers, cooking, gardening, & movies (video). I am also a pre-op TS and need all the help/information I can get. Please write."

Robin Emmons, P.O. Box 11814, Ft Worth, TX 76109-0814

BRENDA H. (N. TX) (#49)

Member: Tri Ess, Dallas-Ft Worth Chapter

Participant: 'Coming Together'

TS, 40, 5'10", 160, blonde, blue eyes. Chemist. Interests: Tennis, cooking, music, hairstyling. "I'm involved in the Dallas/Galveston TS program. Have finally decided to relent to the overwhelming desire to be my female self."

Brenda H. (TX-1247)

WENDI DANIELLE PIERCE (AZ)(#50)

IFGE Chairman of the Board of Directors

Member: A Rose (President)

TG/TS, 5'8", 150, 40, living full time as Wendi now and loving it.

Interests: Travel, camping, writing, popular music, photography, computers, cooking, shopping, public speaking and exploring beautiful Arizona. Co-founder of 'A Rose', publisher of 'Alpha Zeta & A Rose News', public speaker at university level on crossdressing and transgender issues, very active in TV/TS Community. I welcome correspondence from all sincere individuals although I cannot promise a quick response. My motto is "GO FOR IT", and I have!

Wendi Danielle P., c/o A Rose, P.O. Box 4351, Scottsdale, AZ 85261

NANCY HART (TX) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess

I live alone, and dress as I wish. Go shopping dressed, flown dressed. Passable but not perfect, getting better. Interested in fashion, makeup, behavior, philosophy, psychology, personal growth, meeting femme friends, computers. Wish to perfect the image and expression of my feminine side. Enjoy talking & working with everyone in the cross-gender community.

Nancy Hart, PO Box 401227, Dallas, TX 75240

APRIL M. (UT) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess

5'9", over weight but dieting, light brown hair, blue eyes. Interests: Reading, listening to music, collecting old books. "I am very inexperienced at crossdressing. I need to learn fundamentals of makeup, wardrobe, hair care, etc. Any and all help or information will be appreciated."

April M. (UT-1288)

(Paula J. Johnson OK-1620)

MICHELLE M. (TX) (#50)

Blonde, blue eyes, rosy complexion, 5'8" tall, medium build, 40, size 14, 38B, athletic. Interests: Singing, travel, ballet and jazz dance classes, women's fashions, writing. Just graduating from bra and panties to heels, hair, makeup. Need advice on how to appear feminine in public. Will answer all letters.

M. Meller, P.O. Box 833842, Suite 1, Richardson, TX 75080

JOHN S. (NV) (#51)

WM non-crossdresser, 5'10", 170, dark hair, brown eyes, very versatile, professional. Enjoys aerobics, weight-lifting, outdoor activities, traveling, nice restaurants, etc. "Beautiful TV/TS let me take part in your exciting feminine world so that we both can enrich our lives. Please reply with photo."

John S. (NV-1483)

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the Texas sun and warm weather
the activities, the outings,
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(Donna Stires NM-1734)

JANICE HILARY RUPARD (TX) (#52)
IFGE Board of Directors (Alt)
Member: Boulton & Park (co-founder), Outreach
MWM TG, 5'9", 160, size 18, 60 going on 40. Sensitive, with a gentle, caring nature.
Interests: Classical music, playing 'big band' and jazz (alto and bari sax), photography and everything feminine.
"Since I retired, living alone, I've worked very hard developing my femininity. Now, Janice goes most everywhere and does everything. I shop, work, travel by air or by highway - you name it. I'm not the fastest respondent, but I always answer all. Your photo will be enjoyed."
Janice Rupard, P.O. Box 63112, Wetmore, TX 78163

BETTE LEE JOHNSON (TX) (#52)
IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Programs Committee
Member: Dallas Chapter Tri Ess
Attractive TV, 50's, sensitive, caring, outgoing, and very comfortable in the joys of being a woman. "I enjoy the pleasures of being dressed and feeling feminine, and am told I pass well. Enjoy parties and socials with other TV ladies, and being in public en-femme (with discretion). Am now dedicated to serving 'our' world and in particular, helping those who are just starting to come out, and who may need help and advice."
Bette J. (TX-0543)

GEORGIA B. (AZ) (#52)
5'6", 145, 37, brown hair, hazel eyes. Would like to correspond with other TS's in Arizona and California.
Georgia B. (AZ-1012)

JOANNE R. (OK) (#52)
TS, 35, 145, 5'7", black hair, hazel eyes, shy.
Interested in computers, woodworking, games. Could pass with a little help. Would love to be able to go shopping, dine out, and any feminine activity. Have never met or talked to a TS or TV. Will answer any letter.
JoAnne R. (OK-1550)

KIM KELLY (W. TX) (#52)
Bi-TV, 5'8", 170. Enjoys spectator sports, TVism, travel. Lived in Puerto Rico 20 yrs. Can entertain or travel. Would like to join TV group in El Paso area. Will answer all letters ASAP.
C.R. Kelly, P.O. Box 12113, El Paso, TX 79913

DONNA STIRES (NM) (#52)
Member: Tri Ess
SWM, 40, 5'10", 150, widow(er).
Interests: Avid skier and ski racer. Hobbies include scale models, photography, collecting records.
"I was married for several years to a strong, loving, understanding Lady. Since her death I have really felt a need to reach out to other CD/TV's. The warmth and friendship I have received in return have really helped fill the void and fight the loneliness. I am widely travelled, college educated, former military (combat) correspondent. Currently working as audio/video producer. ALMOST passable in public. Would love to meet or correspond with CD/TV/TS's, promise to reply to all letters."
Donna Stires, P.O. Box 1842, Farmington, NM 87499

FAR WEST

RITA F. (S. CA) (#49)
Participant: Shangri-La, 'Be All', Spring P-town
Open minded, loves all things feminine, especially high heels and nylons. Also enjoys fishing, engine building, art, music. "I travel extensively, and would like to meet others interested in being fem."
Rita F (CA-0600)

ROXIE HOROWITZ (S. CA) (#52)
SWM TV, 40, 5'8", 165, makes an exceptionally attractive woman. Would like to be a TV stand up comic or public speaker. "My interests are standup comedy and comedians, motivational speakers and people who are into motivation, jogging, and screen writing. I love dressing and going and getting laughs. I love Divine and Tootsie. I wish to meet others and exchange pictures and correspondence. If you ever get to Southern California or already live there, please let me know and we definitely get together."
Roxie Horowitz (CA-1636)

PAULETTE BROWN (S. CA) (#52)
shy hetero TV seeks understanding, assertive female for friendship and petticoat training me to bring out the woman in me.
Paulette B. (CA-1586)

ELLEN MCKINNEY (S.CA.) (#52)
Member: Neutral Corner
Married white male, 34, attractive and very passable. Interests: Music, sports, reading, photography, high fashion. "I have been written up in several major publications. Enjoy going out in public in all situations. Would love to meet and go out with all California sisters and to correspond with all who write. I will attempt to answer all correspondence promptly, from my sisters across the country as well."
Ellen McKinnon, Box 261326, San Diego, CA 92126

(Rachael Ann C. CA-1294)

(Joan S. CA-0391)

LORRAINE ELLEN H. (N. CA) (#49)
Member: ETVC MWM hetero TV. Only very recently emerged from the closet and am over-awed but savoring every moment that I can publicly adopt a female role. Would like to participate in more activities considered traditionally feminine. Would enjoy exchanging experiences and ideas with sister TSs and TVs of similar bent.
Lorraine H. (CA-1150)

CHARLENE (N. CA) (#52)
Member: EVTC, RGA
Late 30's, passable in daytime, size 14 in dresses. Interests include shopping and gourmet cooking.
Charline (CA-1601)

SUSAN T. (S. CA) (#49)
Member: Neutral Corner, Tri Ess
Long time TV, 60, 5'8", 180, size 20, scientific researcher. Interests: Hiking, science, reading, music, skiing. Will answer all.
W. Thomas, P.O. Box 99732, San Diego, CA 92109

ELLEN SUMMERS (OR) (#49)
IFGE Board of Directors, Chrmn Nominations Committee
Member: NWGA, Emerald City
Awards: 'DREAM' Grand Dame '83
Late 50's, married with 3 children, all know of Ellen and understand. Interests: Travel, big band era music - has large collection of old 40s, (#50)s & 60s recordings. "I will answer all letters addressed to me or to NWGA."
Ellen S., c/o NWGA, P.O. Box 4928, Portland, OR 97208-(#49)28

(Robin N. CA-1068)

Terri C. CA-1293)

JOAN SHELDON (N. CA) (#49)
IFGE Board of Directors (Alt)
Member: ETVC, RGA
MWM hetero, 65, pleasant. Enjoys friendship of TVs & spouses who are out of the closet & proud of the fact. Interests: Flying, sailing, computer freque. Enjoys contact with self-accepting TVs. Sponsor of TV weekend retreats at a beach community in CA, and at Lake Tahoe. Holds events 4 times a year. Purpose: Social interaction & development of feminine persona & feminine deportment.
Joan S. (CA-0391)

(Ellen Summers OR-0382)

BEATRICE ELAINE GIBSON (S. CA)(#49)
(#50)+, long blonde hair, Celtic/English background, and envies those who pass. Interests: Music, reading, writing. A CD with curtains drawn & doors locked, wears garter top stockings and frothy lingerie every day. Loves to write. Will answer all.
Beatrice E. Gibson, (CA-1235)

TANYA L. (WA) (#49)
Member: Emerald City
SWM hetero, 22, 5'8", size 9. Enjoys running, reading (science & history), and dressing as often as possible. "I am in a position (military) in which I will not be able to dress very often for the next few months. I would like to hear from others who can help me get over the empty feeling I get when I am unable to dress."
Tanya L. (WA-1210)

JOANNA ALICE GAYLORD (S. CA)(#49)
6'2", blue-eyed, long auburn haired BBW. Sensitive, warm, & discreet. Interests: Medievalist, Baroque to early rock music, cooking. Also, corresponding, visiting girlfriends, quiet walks, old movies, shopping. "Am just

(Espe L. CA-1299)

beginning to fully express 'Joanna' as the best part of me. As Joanna blossoms, all of me grows - deeper, fuller, warmer, nicer."

J.A. Gaylord, 1721 7th St, San Fernando, CA 91340

KAY L. (WA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess, Emerald City

Interests: Theology, cats, the Wizard of Oz, Halloween, pondering theology/sexuality questions. "A very supportive spouse. Kay doesn't go out often, but would like to discuss TV/TS questions & issues with others. A slow but reliable correspondent."

Kay L. (WA-98119)

JACIE H. (CA) (#50)

Member: ETVC

39, 5'9", 155, blonde & attractive. Hormones 3 years,
electrolysis (#50)% complete. Interests: Finance, stock markets, real estate, sports cars, & restorations (english), art (oils & clay), some sailing. "I would like to meet other pre & post op TS's along the Calif. Gold Coast (Ventura & Santa Barbara area) for informational exchanges & for discrete social acquaintance. No casual crossdressers please."

Jacie H. (CA-1103)

DAVID B. (S. CA) (#50)

WM bi, 6'1" 180, 31, attractive, athletic. Seeks pre-op TS for friendship and dating.

Dave B. Box 86(#49)0, San Diego, CA 92138

LAURA COVINGTON (N. CA) (#50)

Member: Tri-Ess B M , hetero, 38, 5'8", 145, attractive, sincere, friendly. Interests: Fashion, photography, movies, video, music, reading, sports, sport cars, auto racing. "I would like to correspond and meet other TVs or TSs and ladies that understand. I enjoy making new friends throughout the U.S. I love sharing with others the joys of trying to look as feminine as possible."

Laura Covington, Box 10431, Oakland, CA 94610

WENDY REED (N. CA) (#50)

Member: Rainbow Gender Alliance

MWM TV, 6'1", 170, 39. I'm a caring, educated, articulate person, had been accepted for the 'change', but living now semi-closet, married to accepting wife, working as male. Interests include photography, video, writing, all music, sci-fi, fine jewelry, sewing, pen-pals. I am open and giving to all; TVs, TSs, novices, interested persons, straight-gay-bi, fantasies, and always try to respond promptly. I love new friends and would love to lend support and/or guidance.

Wendy R. (CA-1290)

SALLY RAY (WA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess, Emerald City

MWM TV, hetero, 5'8", 160, 32. Interests: Travel, photography, garage sales, and "hunting as Diana" -shopping the malls in high heels and skirt. "Seeking someone like myself in the SE WA area, who passes easily, to "just be girls" with and to experience those things feminine."

Sally R. (WA-1292)

TERRI CANNON (S. CA) (#50)M ,

5'11", 40's, well educated, sensitive, discreet, stable. Good sense of humor. Interests: Cooking, fine arts, photography (have taught classes), 'New Age' philosophy, psychology, film, tennis, golf. "Due to family, I do not dress at home, but do have secure place to dress occasionally. Enjoy being supportive friend to other TVs/TSs. Appreciate a natural look, warmth, honesty, humor. Long term friendships possible. All replies answered!"

Terri C. (CA-1293)

(Cynthia H. CA-1453)

RACHEL ANN CARR (N. CA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess, ETVC

Married, 58, 5'10", size 18, app. 175, neat, do not smoke or drink. Interested in meeting other TV couples for social good times and quiet get-togethers. I like reading, travel, television. Am fairly new to crossdressing and feel I am improving in both wardrobe and makeup ability. Would appreciate any input relative to these and any other areas which would develop my feminine side. Will answer all.

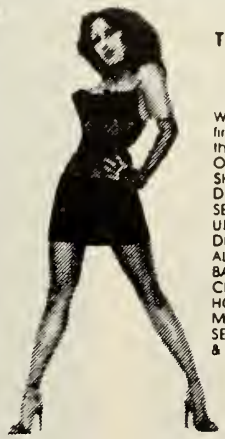
Rachel Ann Carr, 910 Monterey St, Suite 1 B-#152, Hollister, CA 95023

SARAH SHIPMAN (WA) (#50)

Very private person, not much to look at. Enjoy being left alone. Interested in running, skiing, reading. Need advice and or help to improve bustline.

Sarah S. (WA-1297)

TRANSFORMATION



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ESPE L. (S. CA) (#50)

Likes going out to local pubs dressed, attending TV parties, and balls. Interested in fashion, makeup, chit-chat, tennis, fishing, music, jazz, carpentry. Has full support of spouse, and has been looking for a lot of new friends that share the same interests.

Espe L. (CA-1299)

(Nora York AK-1425)

SHARON L. MORGAN (N. CA) (#50)

Have been a TV most of my life. Am not a school girl by any stretch of imagination, but after all, TVism has no age. Interested in corsets, 19th century vintage. Would love to hear from and correspond with others that like to wear corsets. Any and all letters will be faithfully answered.

Occupant, PO Box 623, Yountville, CA 94599

SHARON M. (N. CA) (#51)

SWM mostly hetero TV, 27, 6', 1(#50) or so, brown hair/eyes, fresh out of the closet. Discreet, intelligent, not bad looking. enjoys Aikido, peace movement and other liberal/radical politics, computer programming, biology, philosophy and introspection, and learning to cross-dress passably. "I'm not looking for pen pals. Very interested in dating (no smokers please) any of the following: Women (TSs OK) who are favorably disposed to TVs. Female TVs who enjoy role switching. Other TVs with only one of us cross-dressed at a time.

Sharon M. (CA-1472)

NORA JEAN YORK (AK) (#51)

Fun and friendly, but private type person. Strong emotional feelings and deep desires. Enjoys art, cooking, gardening. Has own computer & TV magazine collection. Would like to share my feelings and desires. Possible meeting.

Nora York, P.O. Box 230084, Anchorage, AK 99523

JACKIE M. (WA) (#50)

DWM, 42, 5'8", 170. enjoys philosophy, science, Movies as art, theater, all music, sports. "Forced CD as teenager. Just getting started again, and not sure where I'm headed. Want to correspond with beginners and all who delight in wearing lingerie, and strutting their stuff. Will answer all.

Jackie M. (WA-1448)

CYNTHIA HOWARD (S. CA) (#51)

Member: Tri-Ess

Hetero TV with TS tendencies. Married, outgoing. Enjoys politics, photography, law, aesthetics. Loves to dress & go out & have a good time. "I want to express myself as Cynthia fully & completely and am getting more involved in our Community. Interested in correspondence & meeting TSs, TVs, & couples. We can help each other."

Cynthia H. (CA - 1453)

MARCIA M. (S. CA) (#51)

5'8", 145, light complexion, nice figure. Enjoys soft silky female attire, especially slips, panties and nylons, polaroid and video photography. "Would like to exchange experiences and fantasies via correspondence with literate and imaginative TVs. Also desire to exchange high quality self-made photos and cassettes."

Marcia M. (CA-1454)

(Ellen Ann McKinnon CA-)

(Sally R. WA-1292)

JAMIE LYNN (WA) (#50)

Bi feminine, passable TV. Enjoys sailing, shopping, cooking, fine wines, & skiing. "I enjoy every aspect of my femininity and enjoy correspondence with other TV/TSs near or far."

J.L. Lease, P.O. Box 568, Clallam Bay, WA 98326

(Wendy R. CA-1290)

(Clara Ann B. HI-0955

(Lorraine H. CA-1150)

(Andi Keene CA-0656)

MARILYN V. (S. CA) (#50)

Member: ETVC

MWM CD, 5'11", 215, brown hair, brown eyes, businessman, moral, honest, non-judgmental, and friendly. Enjoys music, golf, flying, crossdressing, and theology. "I am married with a family, and am just starting to let Marilyn emerge, but still much fear & reservation about being recognized."

Marilyn V., P.O. Box 3286, Bakersfield, CA 93385

CHERYL C. (WA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess

Married TV, 5'4", 42, married to a slightly supportive wife. Enjoys golf, collecting old history books, sports, video games, bowling, music and fashion of the 40's. "I am retired military (drill sgt) and am interested in dressing often and would like to correspond with others. I would like to hear about your first time out experiences and how I can learn from them. I will answer all letters promptly. Being fairly new I have no pictures, but would appreciate receiving one.

Cheryl C., 117 Telegraph Rd, #440, Bellingham, WA 98226

ALLISON O'BRIEN (N. CA) (#51)

SWM TS, (#51), well educated, sensitive, discreet, stable, and living as a woman full time. Interested in correspondence and helping others. "Finally made it working and living full time as a woman and I love it! The future looks bright. Am willing to help all and answer all promptly. Love to hear from you."

Allison O'Brien, P.O. Box 6(#51)7, Aurburn, CA 95604

STEPHANIE BERTRAND (S. CA) (#51)

SW TS-oriented hetero, 35, 5'11", 1(#50), pretty. Enjoys music, writing, world issues, and much more. "I'm just now taking the first steps. Would love to correspond and/or meet with any TV-TS (especially pre or post-op TS) who can help with questions or just share experiences."

Stephanie Bertrand, P.O. Box 46868, Los Angeles, CA 90046

BARBARA CHAPMAN (N. CA) (#51)

(Donna Lynn Freeman CA-1664)

NANCY WILSON (S. CA) (#50)

Member: Tri Ess, Neutral Corner, ETVC

5'9", 1(#50), 44, dark hair & eyes. Enjoys art, music, psychology, and furthering understanding and acceptance of CDs. Publish Neutral Corner newsletter.

Nancy W. (CA-1374)

(Kay Gould CA-0323)

Pre-op M-F TS, 5'9", 160, slight handicap (one arm). Enjoys leatherwork, thrift stores, flea markets, and swap meets. Would like to correspond with other TSs and others for friendship.

Barbara C. (CA-1560)

DONNA LYNN FREEMAN (CA) (#52)

Member: Tri-Ess, ETVC

Participant: Holiday En Femme '87, Pajaro Dunes

MWM hetero TV, 46, 5'9", 160, size 16, enjoys good food, good friends, good conversation, computers, shopping, and all things feminine. "Lifelong CD recently out of the closet and enjoying every minute. Blessed with understanding and supportive wife. Usually passable and working to get better. Am interested in meeting other TVs for shopping and other excursions. Will answer all."

Donna Lynn Freeman (CA-1664)

PIERANNA DI MARTINI (S. CA) (#52)

Hetero crossdresser, 25, 5'4", 115, non-smoker, non-drinker, independent filmmaker. "My interests run toward the artistic- filmmaking, writing, acting, drawing. I would like to correspond with TVs and understanding GGs from all over, especially those in Southern California area."

Pieranna DiMartini (CA-1645)

TARA TENILLE (N. CA) (#52)

IFGE Marketing Director 'Coming Together' '89

Member: ETVC, Society of Janus (co-ordinator of Sacramento group)

Outgoing, fun-loving, demanding, very passable pre-TG, who enjoys the finer aspects of my femininity and life. Do you enjoy fine wine, good conversation, sightseeing, travel, four star restaurants, dancing, lazy afternoons by the water, and sincere friends? Then let's meet. Also enjoy meeting gentleman with class who would like to act as my escort for the above activities.

Love to travel and often visit NYC, Boston, LA, Chicago, SF, Seattle, and more. Sorry, but time limits correspondence. Would like to only hear from those who would ultimately be available to meet. Will reply to all who include a quality letter, photo, and SASE.

Tara Tenille, P.O. Box 13033, Sacramento, CA 95813-3033

KAREN K. (CA) (#52)

Member: Tri Ess, NWGA, Neutral Corner

SWM hetero TV, 45, 5'9", 182. Pleasant personality who enjoys meeting and writing other sisters. I dress en femme about every day, and I go out dressed as often as possible. I'm comfortable dressed in public, and I pass well. I have gone to restaurants, the theater, etc. dressed, and I will continue in the future because I enjoy expressing my feminine personality. My interests are photography, camping & hiking, all sports, music, reading, theater, and dressing. I also travel a great deal; and so I am able to meet a lot of sisters around the country.

Karen K. (CA-0322)

(Pieranna DiMartini CA-1645)

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(Tara Tenille CA-0752)

(Laura Covington CA-0480)

SANDY S. (WA) (#52)

Hetero WM, 5'11". Enjoys the total feminine look - heels, stockings, dresses. Also enjoys get together's and going out. Would like to meet others for going out and blending with others.

Sandy S. (WA-1022)

(Sandy Stevenson WA-1022)

ELIZABETH N. JOHNSON (S. CA)(#52)

Pre-op M-F TS, 30, 6', friendly but shy. Television engineer. Passable with voice, mannerisms & body frame, but in need of makeup & hair styling tips.

Interests: Fanatic in fashion sales, indoor plants, sing opera (use my own soprano female voice), computers, bicycles.

"Would like to start a friendship with TV's, TV's and others who are warm, friendly and sincere. Write, call, send video tape (any format), or audio cassette."

Elizabeth J. (CA-1030)

FLO JAMES (S. CA) (#52)

6'4", 230, hetero, 43, married, educated professional, closeted, discreet. Enjoys photography, psychology, scuba diving, travel. Would like to meet similar individual going through mid-life crisis, for friendship & fun.

Flo J. (CA-1045)

TAMARA K. (N. CA) (#52)

Member: Tri Ess, ETVC

Awards: Miss ETVC '84 & '86

TV, 5'7", 135, enjoys going out, dancing, dining.

Tamara K. (CA-0656)

ANGELIQUE BARBY (S. CA) (#52)

M-F TS (not on hormones), single, very woman oriented, 5'11", 160, 41, brown hair, blue eyes.

Interests: Paleontology (esp dinosaurs), inflatable boating, playing with children, cuddling, animals, & helping people.

"I'm very spiritual & am strongly involved with the Unity Church and very much uphold their philosophy. I am also a very good & committed letter correspondent."

Angelique G. Brummell, 1001 Ballard Ave, Apt 1, Carpinteria, CA 93013

Elizabeth Johnson CA-1030)

(Anne Blackwood CA-1590)

Sandy S. Stevenson WA-1022

ANN BLACKWOOD (S. CA) (#52)

Eurasian hetero male, 34, 6', BA Dramatic Arts, passable (to my surprise).

Interests: World politics, science and sci-fi, technology, physical psychology, writing, film and theatre, design, woodworking, sewing, music (baroque, classical, gospel, C&W, R&B).

"Have word processor and will write (and write, and write). Can talk a blue streak, but at times, like trying to fill out this personal listing, I don't know what to say."

Anne Blackwood, P.O. Box 1251, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-1251

(Angelique Barbey CA-0578)

JULIA K. (S. CA) (#52)

M-FGD, 43, 5'8", 175, Swedish/German. Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, in a great relationship with understanding woman. In extremely masculine & hostile public service profession. Involved in intensive neo-Reichian (Radix) therapy, electrolysis and living. 2 adult children.

Interests: Personal relationships, clothing/jewelry/makeup, people, world travel, music, the fine arts, home remodeling, world peace, humanistic psychology, personal & spiritual growth, natural psychedelics & post modern shamanism...

"I plan to travel & live in China & Japan in the near future. I also need to contact form M-F TS's (women) to help me with my decision making process regarding surgery or not."

Julia K. (CA-1685)

PRISCILLA LAVISH (OR) (#52)

Member: NWGA

5'10", 155, blue eyes, playful, a little flirty, attractive, a little flashy.

Enjoys jazz, dinners out, process oriented (client centered) psychology, personal growth, integration of self. Wants to move towards performing. Needs to study dance & movement more.

Priscilla Lavish, P.O. Box 23021, Eugene, OR 97402-0424

JENNIFER SHALOAM (WA) (#52)

Member: Salmacis

Pre-op TS, 5'10", 160, 33, student.ent.

Interests: Working in media for gender spectrum issues. Taking steps and

(Karen K. CA-0322)

(Rosie Horowitz CA-1656)

(Jennifer Shaldam WA-1730)

serving our sisterhood. I am a feminist TS who believes it's time for the graduates to take over the caretaker's roles, rendering service to self, our subculture, and humanity.

Ms Jennifer Shaloam, Suite 261, 11721 Meridian E., Puyallup, WA 98373

SARAH THOMSEN (N. CA) (#52)
Member: RGA
WM, 27, blonde, blue eyes. Looking for TV-TS contacts for all types, looking to further understand myself. Would like to hear from open minded women. Enjoy dressing as a young girl.
Sarah T. (CA-1727)

FOREIGN

MARY LOU H. (AL CAN) (#50)
Member: Tri Ess, ETVC, NWGA
Participant: Fantasia Fair, Poconos W/E, Tri Ess Holiday, Shangri La, 'Be All'
SWM hetero TV, retired, 5'8", size 12, musician, loves concerts, drama,nature, museums, traveling. Stylish dresser with fine wardrobe. Will meet hetero TVs and understanding girls/ladies. I love correspondence and exchange of pictures. Will answer all.
Mary Lou H. (CAN-0440)

JOAN BRIDGMAN (ON CAN) (#49)
Member: Transition Support, Metamorphosis
Participant: Tiffany P-town Outing, 'Coming Together 87' M-F pre-op TS, 5'7", 180, early 40's. Enjoys theater, photography.
Ms Joan M. Bridgman, 25 Wood St., Apt 305, Toronto, ONT CAN M4Y 2P9

LAURA LYONS (QUE CAN) (#49)
Member: TAMs
"I've gone out on a limb but haven't fallen off the mountain yet. this 31 yr old 5'8", 140 lb TS still has her feet on the ground most of the time. As an honest, open & caring person I look for the same in others. Would like to meet other TSs and passable TVs for friendship or whatever positive things fate may have in store for us."
Laura Lyons, c/o TAMS, P.O. Box 1164, Sta. H, Montreal, Que CAN H3G 2N1

DANIELLE B. (AL CAN) (#49)
Pre-op TS, 5'6", 135, brown hair & eyes. Libra/Scorpio. Living full time as a woman. Interests: Art, theatre, people, fitness, intelligent conversation. "I would like to meet a real gentleman who knows how to treat a lady, and very passable TVs & TSs for friendship. Photo required for response."
Danielle B. (CAN-0840)

GINA S. (ENGLAND) (#50)
Member: TV-TS Support (London), Phoenix Society (RSA)
"I'm a young (30's) TV, enjoying life after divorce. I enjoy sports such as cycling, squash, golf, bridge, and especially feminine hobbies. Would like to establish friends as pen-pals."
Gina S. (GB-1295)

SABRENA ANN SMITH (NS CAN)(#50)
Member: Canada TV/TS Contact Club, TAM
MWM TV, 6', 168. Enjoys writing, parapsychology, dressing, sailing, skiing, and traveling. "I'm interested in correspondence with other TV/TSs. Can travel and will answer all letters with photo."
Sabrina Ann Smith (CAN-1426)

(Sabrena Ann Smith CAN-1426

(Linda Jensen CAN-0422)

(Mary Lou H. CAN-0440)

(Danielle Bluestone CAN-0840)

(Micheline Johnson CAN-0560)

CASSANDRA CURRY (ON CAN) (#51)

Pre-op M-F TS, 5'8", 29, 147, shy. Enjoys sailing, summer sports, shopping & dressing up. "I just came out recently and can almost pass in public but I need to learn more about makeup & dressing from more advance TVs & TSs. Please, sisters, teach me. Will answer all letters."

Cassandra C. (CAN-1429)

OLIVIA ("O") JENSEN (QUE) (#50)

Member: Tiffany Club

"O" is now 'out and proud', happily married to a supportive wife and with two children. "O" loves shopping en femme and participating in ordinary social functions with her straight friends. Would very much like to find a broad circle of TV/TS/CD friends in Eastern Canada and New England. She would like to form an active Montreal Sorority.

Olivia J. (CAN-1409)

MICHELLE D. (QUE CAN) (#50)

WM, interested in high heels, corsetry, B&D. Would like to meet others with same likings.

Michelle D. (CAN-1375)

YVETTE DUCHARME (QUE CAN) (#52)

Member, Tri-Ess, I.F.G.E.

Divorced, white, male, hetero TV, 47, 5'11", 195 lbs. Pleasant personality. University formation. Has travelled in many countries. Enjoys everything feminine. Interests: Camping, shooting, mechanical things, dressing, travelling, meeting with sisters TV/TS, corresponding, going out while dressed. "I am very interested in makeup and looking feminine. My personality type is around 40, classical look, (lady lawyer type) very relaxed, open to discussions. I am working hard to become more feminine through weight loss, electrolysis, (hormones?), etc. I came out only two years ago, have been dressing since age 12. I now live alone."

Yvette D. (CAN-1632)

ALLISON JENNIFER BRENT (ALB) (#52)

Member: Tri-Ess

Hetero CD, 175, 62. Married to a wonderful gal who is aware of CD interests but prefers to remain uninvolved. Interests include music of the big band era, canoeing, walking, reading and writing to sisters. "But more than anything else, I enjoy being Allison! I have never ventured forth en femme, but am looking forward to doing so."

Allison J. Brent (CAN-1656)

MICHELINE JOHNSON (ON CAN) (#52)

Member: FACT-Ottawa

Gentle, sensitive, affection-starved woman (white pre-op M-F TS, born 1930's, hormones since 1979) seeking romantic relationship with caring man, correspondence or in person, preferably in eastern Canada or northeastern U.S. I would be attracted to non-smoking, intellectually inclined, articulate special person interested in the arts, travel, romance, dancing, hugging, dinners by candle-light. Write with photo, phone number to:

Micheline Johnson, P.O. Box 9155, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

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(#52)

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

TV-TS TAPESTRY JOURNAL

International Foundation for Gender Education, TV-TS Tapestry Journal
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IFGE is a non-profit organization serving the TV-TS community, those persons affected by, and those serving that Community. Its services include, but are not limited to: A network of organizations, information distribution, publishing the TV-TS Tapestry, and sponsoring international conventions.

The Tapestry, published by IFGE, is intended to be a source of up-to-date information, of support, and a communications medium and unifying factor for the crossdressing/transsexual community, those persons affected by, and those serving that Community.

All information given on this form is confidential, and no names and addresses are given to others. Any information you give is helpful, but not required.

Date:_____ Adopted name (if applicable): _____
NAME/ADDRESS: _____

_____

TELEPHONE: _____ Special mailing and phoning instructions (how to mail, when to call, etc.)_____

REBATES:

The IFGE supports all legitimate non-profit TV/TS organizations and services. $10.00 from each regular subscription or IFGE Supporting Membership will be sent to the organization or service of the subscriber's choice to help them offset the extra cost of their efforts to help others. Please name the non-profit TV-TS organization or service you wish to receive the $10.00. (If you express no preference, the $10.00 rebate will be placed in the IFGE Outreach and Education Fund.) _____

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_____IFGE SUPPORTING MEMBER $100.00 for four consecutive issues ($110.00 1st class postage, foreign) For persons who wish to be more active or supportive of IFGE's programs and services. A portion of the membership fee will be used for publications, and the remainder will be placed in IFGE's outreach and education fund. A Supporting Membership includes a regular subscription, and discounts for selected IFGE sponsored events. (As a courtesy toward IFGE Supporting Members who wish to use Tiffany's facilities, Tiffany extends Tiffany Special Membership privileges free of charge.)

Make checks and/or money orders payable in U.S. Funds to 'IFGE' or 'Tapestry'. Send this completed form and your check or money order to: 'IFGE', P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.

(Form RF-988) (Please complete other side)

(#52)

TV-TS TAPESTRY PERSONAL LISTING FORM

PERSONAL LISTINGS OBJECTIVES:

1.) To provide a means of introduction, outreach, and communication for members of the International Foundation for Gender Education. (General Subscribers and Supporting Members are considered members of I.F.G.E.)
2.) To provide non-members with a source of support and communication.
3.) To provide the general public with a better understanding of the nature of the people who are members of the Crossdressing/Transsexual community.

WHO MAY PLACE A PERSONAL LISTING:

1.) Only up-to-date IFGE Subscribers and Supporting Members may advertise. As a subscriber your personal listing is free of charge for the duration of your subscription. Your mail will also be forwarded to you at no cost to you.
2.) Your personal listing will be in "The Tapestry" and will continue to be published for the duration of your membership. You may withdraw or change your listing at any time.
3.) No sexually oriented wording or photos will be accepted.
4.) Unless otherwise stated, legal names and addresses will not be placed in the Tapestry. If you want mail forwarded, write "C/O TAPESTRY" on the bottom line.

HOW TO RESPOND TO A PERSONAL LISTING:

1.) If the address is given in the personal listing, write directly to that address.
2.) If there is no address given, follow these instructions exactly:
   A.) Place your letter in an unstamped envelope.
   B.) Pencil in the name, state prefix, and membership number (given at the bottom of the listing). (Be sure to use pencil so the name can be erased.)
   C.) Include $1.00 (for postage and handling) for each piece to be forwarded.
   D.) Place the letters to be forwarded inside another envelope and mail to:
   TAPESTRY, P.O. BOX 367, WAYLAND, MA 01778.

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J2CP Info Services

J2CP Information Services provides information/referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation, JANUS Information Facility, Renaissance: Gender Identity Services, and CORISTA, and educational outreach to church groups, media, and academia. The purpose of the latter is to promote greater understanding among all levels of society.

J2CP provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature relating to gender dysphoria syndrome, in particular transsexualism. This information package is available for a donation of $30.00, to cover the cost of research, printing, first-class postage, and secretarial services.

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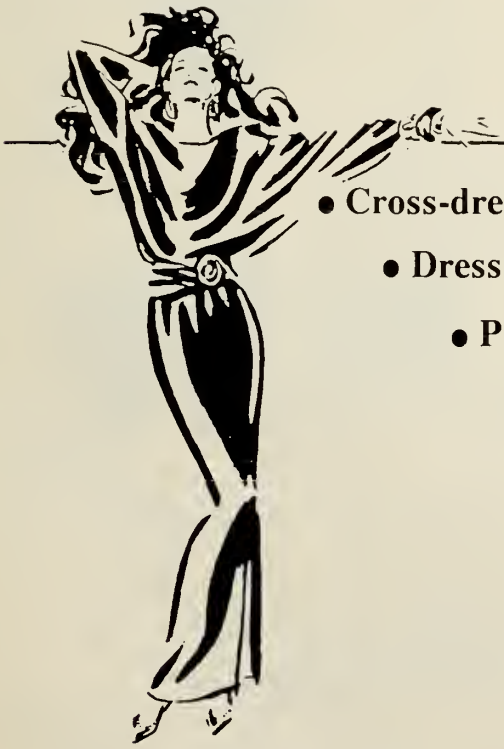

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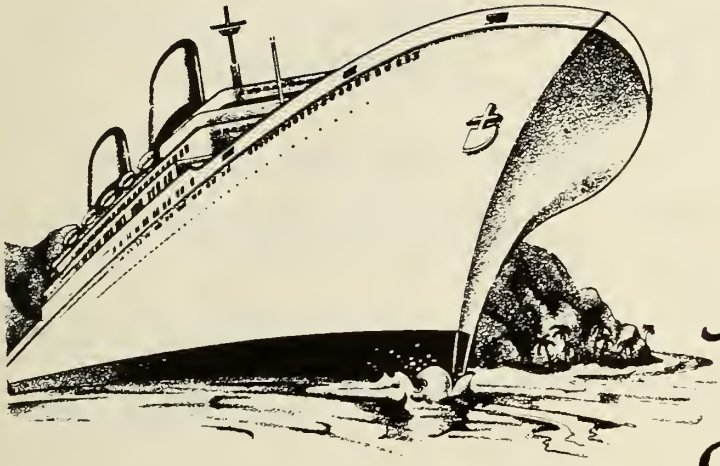

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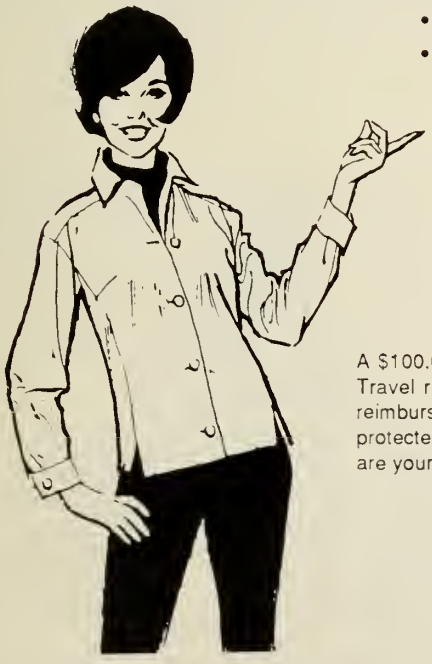

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PURPOSE: To have a convention that is of actual and effective service to the Transvestite/Transsexual Community, and those affected by that Community. It is also intended to provide an educational resource to those persons who have an interest in issues related to gender expression and identity. We will also have **FUN!**

CODE-OF-CONDUCT: It is expected that all persons attending the "Coming Together" convention will dress tastefully (whether that be in masculine or feminine attire), will exercise good manners and common sense at all times, and will protect the security and peace of mind of all. It is our intention to project an image of dignity and self-respect, and we expect all participants and guests to act accordingly.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The San Franciscan Hotel is an excellent facility for our convention. The location, at 8th and Market, is convenient to shopping, restaurants, and night life (a brand new Nordstrom's just a block away). The hotel has just undergone a complete refurbishment, and the sleeping rooms are excellent. The lobby boasts a fine restaurant and bar, gift shop and beauty parlor. The hotel knows who we are, and is looking forward to hosting our convention. A discounted convention rate of **$50 Single / $60 double** has been negotiated. **Toll-free number for hotel reservations: (800) 227-4747**

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